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Defense Ministers May Create Unified Air Defenses

LD0702214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—The meeting of the CIS Defense Ministers Council, which will take place in Almaty on February 9 and be chaired by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, will discuss two items. A spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry told Interfax Tuesday that among them is the creation of a unified system of the CIS air defenses and an agreement on the concept for the protection of the CIS external borders by CIS border troops.

It is expected that Commander of the Russian Air Defense Troops Viktor Prudnikov will make a report on the first issue, and Director of the Russian Federal Border Service Andrey Nikolayev will speak on the second issue.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Feb

LD0802064795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0537 GMT 8 Feb 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Today's Russian newspapers continue to give extensive coverage to the situation in Chechnya. They front-page reports from the zone of conflict and print a chronicle of events, forecasts as well as commentaries.

"Full control over Groznyy will be established during February, and our government will control ten out of 12 districts" in the republic, Prime Minister of the new Chechen Government Salambek Khadzhiyev said in an interview with the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper.

He favoured an exemplary trial of Dzhokhar Dudayev "for other Russian regions to see what a desire for personal power brings about". Khadzhiyev sees his goal at the post of premier in "holding free elections" in Chechnya.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper points to a possibility of turning Dagestan into "a new bridgehead of war". The daily informs its readers of leaflets which appeared in the republic with a call "to form armed detachments of resistance to Russian invading troops".

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper carries "basic ideas" by Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray about regional policy on the eve of parliamentary hearings on this topic.

Russian newspapers discuss in detail the key topics of the Almaty summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which will open on February 10. According to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's forecasts, summiteers will "sign a package of strategic agreements which will give an impetus to the development of relations inside the Commonwealth".

Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Council of Defence Ministers, awaits from the Almaty summit the signing of several important documents of military nature, which will help strengthen collective security. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper publishes an interview with him.

Viktor Samsonov, chief of the staff on coordination of military cooperation between CIS countries, deals with the same topic in his interview to the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper. He describes in detail principles and orientation of the collective security system within the Commonwealth.

Igor Sergeyev, commander-in-chief of Russian strategic missile troops, comments on the situation in these forces in the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper. According to Sergeyev, "an adequate and reliable system of operation of nuclear missile weapons and their regulated servicing developed in missile troops".

Russian newspapers start publishing materials on the election campaign. "I shall not be an aloof onlooker" (eds: at 1996 presidential elections), former Soviet Prime minister Nikolay Ryzhkov said in an interview with the PRAVDA newspaper.

He plans to rely on "left-wing and left-centre parties and movements" which, in Ryzhkov's opinion, have serious chances for success.

The press concentrates on a one-day all-Russian warning strike of miners, scheduled for this Wednesday, which will be supported by 70 per cent of Russian mines.

According to estimates of the TRUD newspaper, about one million tonnes of coal will not be produced as a result of the strike. The newspaper links a decision on this job action to a refusal by First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays to meet the demands of miners: to return them completely 2,500 billion roubles in wage areas.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points to the disappearance of Russian-made foodstuffs from retail trade. According to the newspaper, Russian food shops sold 4.5 times more imported meat, 5.6 times more poultry and 2.4 times more imported butter in 1994. Imported foodstuffs make up 90 per cent of all foods at Moscow shops.

U.S. Policy of Backing Yeltsin 'Confirmed'

MM0802142995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 95 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "The Love Affair Is Over, but Affection Remains. America Is Not Denying Boris Yeltsin Its Support, Despite Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Hardly anyone here doubts that Russia will occupy first place in the upcoming U.S.-German talks. Both German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is arriving in Washington toward the end of the week, and his host Bill Clinton will set aside all other matters in order to try to find an answer to the tortuous question: What to do about Russia?

It would be an exaggeration to maintain that the Chechnya events have come as a shock to the U.S. Administration. Even if the White House and the State Department did not share the Kremlin's reasons, they did at least understand them. Most likely the Americans had received assurances from Moscow in advance that the operation would not take long. This is unlikely to have been anything like Grachev's famous "in two hours, with one battalion." But the correlation of forces seemed so fantastically unequal that it was simply hard for the Americans to imagine that the Russian Army would take more than two months to conquer Groznyy.

The effect of the Russian Armed Forces' manifest weakness was discouraging even to acknowledged experts. Robert Gates, former CIA director under President Bush, and Brent Scowcroft, former national security aide, see as the most surprising aspect "the extent of the disintegration of the once-proud Soviet military machine.... This fact will yet influence a number of other things—from the security of the nuclear arsenal to the place of the military in Russia's political life."

The article by the two experts, published in the conservative WASHINGTON TIMES, is called "Russia, Chechnya, and... U.S. Policy." Although the authors assess President Yeltsin's stance as "difficult and possibly even politically devastating," they see no real alternative to the current Russian policy being conducted by the Clinton administration.

For the sake of fairness, let us note that the White House has never gone that far in its vacillation. Although the Russian Foreign Ministry and the embassy in Washington hastened to protest against the visit by Shamsetdin Yusef, who calls himself the Chechen foreign minister, there was no practical need for this. Even during the days when the final version of U.S. policy in respect of Russia was still maturing in the closed conference rooms of the White House and the State Department, the tall, elegant Chechen who originally comes from Jordan was not allowed into any of these lofty institutions.

However, the vacillations are now in the past. The White House has a confirmed Russia policy again. This new policy is the same good old tune. The White House will continue to support President Yeltsin. For the same reason as Yeltsin himself and his close officials are putting forward. And that is: If Yeltsin is not there, Zhirinovskiy will be instead.

This does not rule out the probability of a public condemnation of the military excesses in Chechnya. But internal affairs remain precisely that. Aid will continue, and NATO's likely expansion rate will become even smoother and lengthier. The United States supports the idea of the IMF's granting Russia a loan of $6 billion plus another $6 billion to stabilize the ruble. And although an IMF delegation has only just left Moscow without agreeing with the optimistic forecasts as regards the implementation of the Russian budget, this can be put right: The delegation will soon be returning to Moscow, and the money will most likely be allocated.

"We have made the democrats and the reformers in Russia seriously doubt that principles are dearer to us than profit," Gates and Scowcroft noted sadly. But their distress is misplaced: Russia has long since recognized that quality in the United States, and does not feel particularly disillusioned. Business is business.

Does the U.S. Administration see prospects of a second Yeltsin presidency? The question is evidently inappropriate. White House analysts see no alternative to Yeltsin among his political rivals.

Justifying their unfailing support for Yeltsin regardless of the howls of disapproval coming from American grassroots public opinion, Administration officials say that Washington will need Russia's support in the next few years in at least five important spheres: the ratification of the START II treaty and the reduction of the nuclear arsenal; Russia's signature on a worldwide treaty on nuclear nonproliferation and a permanent ban on nuclear testing; diplomatic cooperation in ending the war in Bosnia; and settling differences over the probable expansion of NATO; and, finally, they will want Russia to suppress its ambitions and not trample on its economically and politically weaker neighbors.

It is not easy for the Americans to negotiate with the unpredictable Yeltsin, but there is simply no one else to talk to, they believe.

It is very likely that Helmut Kohl will make some amendments to this plan, but the furniture is already arranged, and no big rearrangements are predicted.

U.S. 'Offensive,' Russian 'Diplomatic Retreat' in Balkans

MM0702161695 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Yelena Kalyadina: "Bosnia: When the Guns Fall Silent, the Americans Start Talking"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is not much news from Bosnia. And that, as we know, is no bad thing. So it is just the time for diplomats, politicians, and other leaders to start talking. For them the announcement of a four-month truce is a good excuse to recall yet again that the Bosnian battles are just one act in the pan-Yugoslav tragedy and that repetitions of old acts and the playing out of new ones are entirely possible. The final act has not yet been written. [passage omitted]

In general, there are enough facts to allow us to start talking about an American "offensive" in the Balkans. And, regrettably, we have to talk about a Russian diplomatic retreat—primarily on a Bosnian settlement. Incidentally, I have learned from confidential but entirely authoritative sources that the Bosnian Serb leadership has repeatedly asked Russia to take charge of resolving the conflict, and has even given it the chance to do so. But no reaction was forthcoming. Moreover, it transpired that Aleksandr Zotov, the Russian president's special representative in the former Yugoslavia, has not heard anything about any such proposals. As for the Balkan resentment about the Russian "retreat," Aleksandr Ivanovich does not share that view, since he believes: "This is not a retreat but a working time when we are interpreting the plans for the future." And in terms of the big picture there is no point in Russia's rushing onto the attack in the Balkans—let us not disregard the opinion of our "peacekeeping partners or lose our store of international confidence."

These admissions by this experienced diplomat have been winning over everyone with their diplomatic wisdom. All the more so now that Russia has its own concerns that are similar to those of the Balkans. Pray God they will pass. But, admittedly, it is hard to hear words such as those spoken, for instance, by Karadzic: "The main thing for Russia now is the question of fighting for its own survival. We have turned into small change in a game among great powers."

We should ponder on those words. Having spoiled our own reputation overnight, we are now making every effort to walk in step with the great powers. And that is right. But, while walking in step, we also need to watch where we are treading—so as to maintain not our store of confidence but the confidence of those from who we gained it long ago. We must not become small change....

Nagorno Karabakh Peace Talks Open in Moscow

LD0702131195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1153 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Discussion on the first day of the current round of Moscow talks on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh centered around the question of who should be recognized a side to the conflict and correspondingly a signatory to a future agreement, a source close to one of the delegations told Interfax Tuesday [7 February]. The Azeri delegation again insisted that either two (Armenia and Azerbaijan) or four sides (Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Armenian and Azeri communities of Nagorno-Karabakh) be considered sides to the conflict. The delegations of Armenia and Karabakh demanded abiding by OSCE documents naming parties to the conflict to be those who signed the cease-fire agreement, in force since May 12, 1994: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The discussion apart from this was of a general nature. The sides stressed that these are the first talks since the Budapest OSCE summit that have made important decisions to promote a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The talks meditated by Russia and Sweden, in particular the Russian co-chairman of the Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, Valentin Lozinskiy, are expected to last until Thursday afternoon.

For the first time negotiations are held at the level of special envoys of the conflicting sides' supreme leaders.

NATO Head Claes Favors Cooperation With Russia

LD0702222795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hague February 7 TASS—NATO still thinks it best for European security to develop a dialogue and cooperation with Russia, NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said here today. He told the HET PAROOL newspaper that they do not want to isolate the big country with a huge potential.

At the same time, NATO is concerned with the Chechen tragedy. They do not call into question the principle of Russian territorial integrity but cannot agree with the Russian wish to consider Chechnya as a merely internal affair. NATO requests Russia to stop violence, respect human rights and rights of ethnic minorities.

NATO wants to cooperate with Russia but it can cooperate only with a state that respects principles of democracy and human rights and a state where reforms go on, said Claes. It also cannot agree with Russia vetoing the expansion of NATO. As for the admission of new members, it is a political question that should be considered very well, said Claes.

The NATO head is skeptical about the idea of U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry to form a permanent NATO-Russian commission. New elements in cooperation with Russia are not excluded but the current ones should be used first, he said.

Karasin on Use of OSCE Mechanisms in Chechen Settlement

LD0702150795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mechanisms are "the best for Russian interaction with the international community in Chechen settlement on the basis of respect to territorial integrity and the Constitution of Russia," head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

At the same time, emotions prevailed in documents on Chechnya of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly, said Karasin. This is proved by international-legal inaccuracies in the assembly documents which were highlighted by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Estimation of situations similar to the Chechen one "should not be emotional and superficial, but show readiness and skill to take into account the broad political, legal and historical context," stressed Karasin. The Russian side "reaffirms its preparedness for constructive and active dialogue with the international community on humanitarian aspects of the Chechen situation," he said.

Moscow is planning "further humanitarian interaction in the provision of human rights both with the OSCE and other international institutes capable of helping normalization in Chechnya," said Karasin. This involves, in particular, preparations and holding of elections, expert assistance to the formation of democratic state institutions in the Chechen Republic.

"We sincerely hope for understanding of our difficulties and legitimate interests on the part of all foreign partners," said the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

International Aid for Chechnya Welcomed

LD0702215895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: report by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Moscow is ready for a constructive dialogue with the international community on humanitarian aspects of the situation in Chechnya, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday [7 February].

According to Karasin, Moscow "maintained cooperation in enforcing human rights with both the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] and other international agencies capable of helping Russia to normalize the situation in Chechnya.

Karasin spoke of overreaction to the Chechen crisis by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and urged that it be considered in a broader political, legal and historical context.

At the same time, Karasin highly praised the decision made by the OCSE Standing Council after a representative of its current chairman visited Moscow and the North Caucasus.

"The contents of the document allowed the hope that OCSE mechanisms will remain the optimal framework for our cooperation with the world community in the settlement of the Chechnya conflict on the basis of respect of Russia's territorial integrity and Constitution," Karasin said.

The diplomat emphasized that the Russian authorities will "undoubtedly" welcome any kind of international support. He said the U.N. had called on the world community for humanitarian aid worth $24 million to refugees from the Chechnya conflict area.

According to Karasin, the money will be used to provide the refugees with food, medications, sanitary means and other prime necessities.

Karasin Maintains 14th Army Property Belongs to Moscow

LD0702220395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Grigoriy Karasin emphasized that Russia "in principle" believed that all the property of its 14th Army stationed in Transdniester should be its.

According to Karasin, Moscow cannot but realize that "leaving behind property in conflict areas is fraught with grave consequences."

Karasin also remarked that "such issues require a very serious and responsible approach, and the talks between the Russian, Moldovan and Transdniester representatives on the issue will be continued."

The president of the self-proclaimed Transdniester republic, Igor Smirnov, had issued a decree on February 3 banning the republic's "ministries, bodies, enterprises and organizations as well as individuals promoting" the withdrawal of the 14th Army's property.

Commenting on international monitoring of the 14th Army's withdrawal, Karasin remarked that "in this issue it is necessary to stick to the existing bilateral and international agreements," which envisions only good services by an OCSE [Organization for Security and Confidence in Europe] mission in monitoring the implementation of the October 21, 1994 agreement, according to which Russia is to pull out its troops from Moldova within three years.

Lebed Comments on Smirnov Decree on 14th Army

LD0802150295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, Feb 8 (Interfax)—The commander of the 14th Russian Army Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed has declared that the Tuesday decree of the president of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian republic, Igor Smirnov, banning the removal of equipment from the territory of the republic does not apply to the property of Russian armed forces stationed in the area.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax he stressed that the decree is entitled "On additional steps to prevent the removal from the Transdniestrian Moldovan republic of equipment, property and other material resources purchased from the 14th Russian Army".

This means, the general said, that the residents of Transdniestria who purchased property from the 14th Army cannot take it away or use outside the region. This is their problem, he said, and the decree does not apply in any way to the vehicles or arms of the army itself.

The commander said vehicles and various general purpose trucks were sold after their term of service expired.

"The 14th Army did not sell a single military vehicle. This is out of the question. As for GAZ-66, Ural and other trucks, they are sold through the logistical section of the Russian Defense Ministry that has its representative in the 14th Army," the general said.

On the preamble of Smirnov's decree quoting the Moldovan-Russian agreement on the withdrawal of the 14th army Lebed described it as "verbal rubbish to which he attaches no attention because he did not get any instructions about the removal of army units from the region."

Asked about his attitude to the declaration of the Russian ambassador-at-large, Vladimir Kitayev, that talks on the early withdrawal of two land brigades might be held before the enforcement of the pullout agreement. Lebed said he knows nothing about such talks.

"There are no military problems with the army withdrawal. If there are train cars and the necessary political decisions, it is not difficult to withdraw the army. But this is out of the question now because there is no political definition of the status of Transdniestria which the withdrawal agreement stipulates," Lebed stressed.

Russian Economic, Political Interests in Near East Viewed

MM0702164895 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[Article by Vadim Markushin: "Near East: New Nuances and Eternal Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last Thursday [2 February] the pioneer of the Near East settlement—which is what Egypt considers itself to be—attracted universal attention owing to an event that was unusual to say the least. A previously unparalleled quadripartite meeting between the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian National Authority occurred in the Egyptian capital. The unexpected way in which this event occurred lent it a somewhat sensational slant. [passage omitted]

In this context we can once again glance back over the definite increase in Moscow's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East, which have brought universally recognized positive progress. Namely the improvement in political and business ties with the Gulf countries, which are so important for Russia. And, of course, its undoubted contribution to securing a peaceful outcome to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict.

Incidentally, for Russia this kind of effective peacemaking makes up the most reliable section of the "political revenue," which is naturally also followed by many other benefits. Regrettably, such worthy diplomatic demarches are not as yet part and parcel of the Russian Foreign Ministry's strictly consistent activity. And during the new postconfrontational era the level of former Soviet influence in the Near East remains a lofty objective for Russian foreign policy. There is no vacuum in such circumstances—a sharp-eyed rival, convinced that there is no place on earth where he does not have "vital interests," soon takes the place of the person who has surrendered his positions.

The Near East is undoubtedly a sphere of Russian interests. It is a nerve center where our state profits or losses very soon take their toll. For instance, we did not have time to look round before Israel had placed defense orders with Poland. And the Czechs, Romanians, Hungarians, and even Ukrainians are lining up behind Poland. The Israelis are also gazing raptly at Arab customers. Especially since a recent trial balloon found its mark: Saudi Arabia bought 14 bridges at a price of $1 million apiece.

But Israel is not only a rival but also a potential partner. In our joint opposition to international terrorism and Islamic extremism. Presumably, there are important prospects for us here in more fundamental spheres. Provided of course that we do not relax our attention, justifying this by saying that there are more "pressing matters."

Syria and Egypt are an equally crucial field of foreign political activity. In these countries the traditions of multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union undoubtedly live on. It can only be to our mutual benefit to revive and increase them. Both from the viewpoint of the economic benefits and when it comes to stabilizing the strategic situation against the backdrop of the increasing Islamic factor.

In a word the evolution taking place beyond Russia's southern borders is not only of interest to Russian society, it affects its fundamental consumer and spiritual foundations.

Foreign Ministry Official on Tajik Peace Talks

LD0702144195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russia favours the continuation of the Tajik dialogue aiming to ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes, as it also favours observance of understandings on the date, time and format of talks, a high official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told ITAR-TASS today.

As concerns the Tajik opposition's refusal to hold talks in Moscow, the Russian official stressed that it runs counter to the understanding reached in the course of the third round of talks in Islamabad. He said that unfortunately zigzags of this kind were fairly frequent in the actions of the Tajik opposition.

The Russian side for its part is ready to ensure all necessary conditions for talks, but given consent of both negotiating parties and mediation by the United Nations in the choice in favour of another capital of a CIS member-state, Moscow will not put up any obstacles. The main thing is for the negotiating process to continue.

According to preliminary data, the fourth round of talks can be held in the middle of February.

Unofficial sources close to the Tajik opposition told ITAR-TASS that in the course of recent talks in the United States, the leader of Tajikistan's Islamic movement Akbar Turadzhonzoda secured U.S. support of his demand that a different venue be chosen for the fourth round of talks. It should be noted however that the opposition finds not only Moscow but also Tashkent unsuitable. It is difficult to forecast whether the capital of any other Commonwealth member-state will suit the opposition since its representatives has been increasingly insisting on carrying on talks outside the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, preferably in an Islamic country or even in Europe.

Official Warns Against Abrogating Treaty With China

LD0702130895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1152 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Commenting on the recent statement by Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, deputy speaker of Russia's Federation Council, on the need to denounce the Soviet- Chinese agreement on demarcation of the state border's eastern section, Aleksandr Panov, Russia's deputy foreign minister, claimed that the administration in Vladivostok, visited by a Federation Council delegation, had fed "one-sided information" to Dolgolaptev.

"That information was absolutely unsubstantiated by historical or other facts. In the meantime, it is known that in the 30's, the former USSR took advantage of a myriad of military conflicts, the Sino-Japanese one included, and 'cut off' for itself part of China's territory," Panov stressed in an interview with Interfax.

He specifically noted that "the Soviet-Chinese agreement, crowning 30 years of work, settles virtually all territorial issues in relations with China." "Its denunciation would throw them back to the worst times of confrontation and would lay an unbearable burden on the feeble Russian economy," Panov stressed.

He also remarked that "the positions of Russia in Europe as well as in the South (the Muslim world - IF) are not the strongest." "Do we really need 'a third front' on the frontier?"- Panov said.

Russia To Help Kazakhstan Guard Border With China

LD0702165795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1641 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (TASS)—Boris Yeltsin has accepted the proposal of the Federal Border Service and the Russian Foreign Ministry to sign a treaty with Kazakhstan on the joint guarding of Kazakhstan's border with China.

Today, the Russian president signed the relevant order, the press service of the head of state announced.

Yeltsin Reprsentative Warns Against Ceding Land To China

LD0802113595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok, Feb 3 (INTERFAX-EURASIA)— The agreement with China on the demarcation of the border should not be carried out at the expense of the Russian side. The statement was made by the presidential representative in the Maritime territory Vladimir Ignatenko in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

"We checked the 1860 Beijing agreement and compared a century old map with a modern one. They fully coincided. We favor friendship with our great neighbor, but if we give away at least one inch of land, tomorrow everyone will start demanding such inches from Russia," Ignatenko thinks.

The presidential representative sees the way out in Russian makers of the document admitting their mistakes and finding a way of correcting them. "The friendship of Russia and China will not suffer from that but it will be truly based on parity," he stressed.

Under the 1991 agreement China should get 300 hectares of fields in Khankai region, 960 hectares of cedar forests in Ussuri region and 330 hectares along the Tumannaya river in Khasan region.

According to sources in the Maritime territorial administration, the latter section is of considerable importance in the light of the Tumangan international project. If the land is surrendered to China the Chinese will be able to begin constructing a port on the Tumannaya region which will weaken Russian control over the Tumangan project and offer competition to ports in the south of the Maritime territory.

Commentator Questions Supply of ROK Reactors for DPRK

SK0702140395 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev from the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow, U.S. special Ambassador Robert Gallucci discussed with representatives of the Russian Foreign and Atomic Energy Ministries the possibility of Russian participation in the program to reverse the direction of the DPRK's nuclear program. Our station commentator Aleksey Kondratyev writes:

The U.S. guest did not explain the results of the Moscow negotiations to reporters. However, it is clear that they discussed the Russian participation in the U.S.-Japan-ROK international assistance program to supply light-water reactors to the DPRK.

Prior to the Russia-U.S. negotiations, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed Moscow's position on this matter: Vice Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov made it clear that Russia does not agree on a junior partnership in the international assistance program. The vice minister also said that Russia is ready to supply the necessary reactor model to the DPRK.

In the meantime, the DPRK expressed its interest in the Russian light-water reactors. Pyongyang stressed that the Russian light-water reactors are inexpensive and that it [Pyongyang] is completely familiar with the Russian equipment because DPRK experts were trained in Russia.

Given Robert Gallucci's remarks, Washington has a different view: He said the fundamental supplier of the light-water reactors is Seoul.

Gallucci's view is based on the financial aspect. Seoul is expected to pay three fourths of the $4 billion, which are necessary for the DPRK light-water reactors.

Financing is important in the DPRK light-water reactors issue. However, more important is the position of the DPRK leadership. Speaking of its position, Pyongyang resolutely rejects reactors from Seoul. Pyongyang's (?preference) for Moscow is based on the long bilateral cooperation in nuclear energy development. The question is. Is it reasonable to ignore this view of the DPRK people?

Russia Studying Possible Role in N. Korean Nuclear Program

LD0802111195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 8 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Moscow is determined to thoroughly analyse, proceeding from its own national interests, the advisability of its participation in the international consortium which is being formed to update and render safer North Korea's nuclear programme, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told ITAR-TASS today.

"Russia's role must be commensurate with the task of preserving nuclear non-proliferation and meet our political and economic interests," Panov said commenting on the results of the consultations which U.S. Ambassador at Large Robert Galucci held with officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Ministry for the nuclear industry in Moscow.

According to Panov, any decision on Russia's possible participation in the consortium should be made taking into account Russia's role on the Korean peninsula and its extensive experience of cooperation with North Korea, including in the field of nuclear power engineering.

He declined to disclose the specific proposals made by the American ambassador during the consultations but said Russia received an invitation to attend a meeting of the potential members of the consortium scheduled for late February and early March in New York.

According to Panov, Russia has accepted the invitation but the rank of its envoys to the meeting has yet to be decided.

The consortium, dubbed the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), has as its objective to replace North Korea's nuclear energy units which can produce weapons-grade plutonium with light-water reactors which cannot, in accordance with the U.S.-North Korean accord reached earlier. The project is valued at four billion dollars.

South Korea is expected to play the key role in KEDO because "it is able and willing" to supply North Korea with two reactors and shoulder the lion's share of the financial burden with Japan playing "a supporting part".

Robert Galucci said in an interview with ITAR-TASS in moscow that "it is the only workable arrangement". In his view, although the question about the main supplier is solved, a question about the roles to be played by other countries invited to participate in KEDO, including Russia, is open.

Moscow repeatedly reiterated that it was willing and ready to provide Russian-made light-water reactors for the North Korean nuclear retooling programme, but declared that it would join the consortium only if given equal status with other participants.

Pyongyang has repeatedly stressed its interest in Russian reactors and rejected categorically South Korean replacements.

Asked whether the difference between Washington and Pyongyang on this score might lead to an impasse, Panov replied that the Russian officials had asked the same question in the course of consultations with Galucci. According to Panov, the Americans are confident that in the final account a solution would be found which will make the supply of South Korean reactors acceptable for North Korea.

Trade Agreements Signed With Yugoslavia

LD0702151395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade February 7 TASS—A Russian governmental delegation on Tuesday concluded its working visit to Yugoslavia by the signing of intergovernmental agreement on the delivery of Russian natural gas to Yugoslavia up to the year 2010 and other documents on specific areas of cooperation and perfection of the legal base. The delegation was headed by Deputy Premier, Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Oleg Davydov.

The communigue says that the Russian side confirmed its determination to help ease sanctions of the U.N. Security Council regarding Yugoslavia and latter to lift them altogether.

Both sides agreed to coordinate in near future intergovernmental agreements on Russia's supply of oil to Yugoslavia and on cooperation in the construction of a trunk gas pipeline in south Serbia. Measures are outlined to involve Russian economic organisations in the participation in the reconstruction of facilities of non-ferrous metallurgy and heat and electricity production in Yugoslavia and the construction of a metro in Belgrade.

The export from Russia to Yugoslavia of energy carriers, machinery and equipment and raw materials will become priorities in trade. Yugoslavia will be supplying to Russia machinery, medicines, food products, consumer goods. Yugoslavia will also be rendering building assistance.

Declaring for the establishment of cooperation of a basis of contemporary forms— joint ventures and consortiums for the implementation of major projects the sides outlined priority areas: electrical engineering, metallurgy, the agroindustrial complex, automobile building and aircraft construction, shipbuilding. The importance of the exchange of technologies was noted. The Russian side expressed the readiness to transfer technologies earlier used in military purposes and in outer space. The Yugoslav side expressed interest of its economcal organisations in the participation in the conversion of war industry facilities to civilian uses in Russia by the transfer of appropriate technologies in the light, food and pharmaceutical industries.

Indian Firms To Build, Modernize Seaports for Russia

MM0802142795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 95 First Edition

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Foreign Investment"—from the "Business in Russia" section p 1]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major Indian companies will be taking part in implementing a wide-ranging international project to build six new seaports in Russia and modernize three existing ones. The cost of the projects is $6 billion.

The ports are designed to accommodate and dispatch containers, crude oil, petrochemicals, gas, and other freight. Once they have been built (the first phase should be commissioned by the year 2000) they will handle a total of 95 million tonnes of freight a year.

The Indian companies will launch the work on the Taman Peninsula, where another new seaport will be built, and will also take part in modernizing the port installations in Tuapse and Novorossiysk. It is also intended that they will participate in building a new seaport in the Caspian and installing freight terminals in the ports of Vostochnyy and Murmansk.

Political Issues

U.S. Embassy Accused of Rights Violations

954F1188A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 1 Feb 95 p 1

[Commentary by V. Lipitskiy, member of the State Duma, under the "A Deputy's Opinion" rubric: "U.S. Embassy Violates Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Violations of human rights have as of late become systematic and pervasive at the Embassy of the United States in Moscow.

Each person wishing to visit the United States is faced with the humiliating need to prove that he has no intention of remaining there for residence illegally. This is in violation of the presumption of innocence--the basic principle of law and democracy.

The family or property situation of a citizen is frequently the reason for refusal to issue a visa. In other words, a qualification contrary to the principle of the citizens' equal opportunities has been imposed de facto.

The reasons for the denial of a visa are often not given at all. But, in any event, a notation that is tantamount to entry on a black list is stamped in the passport (and not only by the American but by other embassies also, what is more). The citizen's right to freedom of movement is thus limited.

Visitors to the embassy are greeted by an arrogant, scornful, and, at times, rude attitude on the part of the personnel, which demeans their personal and civic dignity.

It is highly offensive that the mission of a country that has exerted considerable efforts for the defense of human rights in the USSR and in Russia has become the epicenter of violations of such rights.

Without questioning the competence of any country to establish its own immigration policy, the Russian state and public are entitled to demand that the United States observe internationally recognized rules, principles, and standards in the sphere of human rights and liberties.

I propose that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation appeal to the Government of the United States, pointing out the impermissibility of the pervasive violations of human rights perpetrated by the embassy in Moscow.

I appeal to my colleague deputies and public figures and politicians of Russia that they refuse to attend all activities conducted by the Embassy of the United States in Moscow until they have received guarantees of its observance of the rights of Russian citizens.

Filatov on Topics for Local Government Conference

LD0702125095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1042 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—President Boris Yeltsin has signed orders to convene a national conference on local self-government in Moscow on February 17, the head of the presidential office Sergey Filatov told Interfax.

He accounted the importance of the event to the discussion of the formation of a power system of new Russia. According to Filatov, power structure matters have been resolved on the federal and partly on the regional levels. While there is a unanimous opinion on these matters, Filatov said, the question of local government bodies arouses differences, sometimes diametrical. Unfortunately, he said, some regional leaders are still trying to grab more powers from the federal authorities and share less with local leaders.

The official went on to say that there are several draft laws on the matter in the Duma. One of them actually suggests the restoration of the Soviet power system.

According to others, including the draft submitted by the president, local government bodies should have property, including land and funds, and their rights should be guaranteed by law. This means that top power bodies will be unable to interfere in the life of a town or region without the consent of local bodies. Besides, the presidential draft implies a variety of forms of local government. Cossacks should have their own form of self-government, small towns another and cities with a population of 500,000 and more still another. Thus, Filatov said, the law should define only the general principles of local self-government without a strict pattern applicable to everyone.

According to Filatov, these matters will be thoroughly discussed at the national conference on February 17 which should help work out general recommendations for the law on local self-government.

Yeltsin, Shumeyko Discuss Local Government

LD0702154995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin met Federation Council chairman Vladimir Shumeyko in the Kremlin today.

ITAR-TASS was told by sources in the Federation Council that the talk centred on the Russian conference on the implementation of constitution provisions on local self-rule and authorities of the state in Russia's component states. The conference, due to be held on February 17, will be attended by delegates of both houses of the Russian parliament, regional authorities, public groups and scientific organisations.

Yeltsin and Shumeyko "arrived at the conclusion that recommendations to be offered to the conference will motivate the parliament houses to give a maximum attention to passing a series of laws on power in Russia," ITAR-TASS was told by the Federation Council's senior spokesman Yuriy Algunov.

Shumeyko, who was one of initiators of the conference, was quoted as saying that the first convocation parliament "should leave behind it a full legislative package on reform of Russian authorities." The Federation Council chairman said this was a major task of the legislature in progress toward a democratic state.

Yeltsin Meets Chernomyrdin, Shumeyko in Kremlin

LD0702160895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—A Kremlin meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Speaker of the Upper Parliament Chamber Vladimir Shumeyko focused today on the upcoming Commonwealth Summit in Almaty, economic aspects of the presidential annual message to the parliament and the all-Russian conference on local government scheduled for February 17.

Well-informed Kremlin sources told ITAR-TASS that the president has almost finalized his message to parliament deputies. The message is expected to carry "an honest and profound analysis" of the 1994 economic reform in Russia. Many provisions of the 1994 presidential message have not been fulfilled by the government and deputies. The prime minister told the state head he is planning to correct this mistake and control the implementation of the document, noted the sources. Under the Russian Constitution, the presidential message to the parliament outlines priorities in domestic and foreign policies.

The meeting stressed the need for the soonest Chechen restoration both in the economic and social spheres. The top task of today is to help thousands of homeless people, refugees and families without the bread-winner in Chechnya to life a normal life, stressed the interlocutors.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Chechnya, Personnel Issues

LD0702174895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Kremlin today, the presidential press service reports.

"The meeting discussed a number of personnel issues, as well as restorations in Chechnya and involvement of builders in the process. The prime minister informed the president of negotiations with representatives of the Chechen public.

"The sides also dwelled on issues the president is planning to raise in his annual message to the Federal Assembly (the parliament).

"In view of the upcoming meeting of the Commonwealth government heads, the prime minister informed the president of the meeting agenda. The meeting coordinated the schedule of foreign visits of the president and the prime minister for 1995," says the official report.

Government Not To Backtrack on Reform Because of Chechnya

LD0702123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 ITAR-TASS—Russia will not backtrack on its economic reform policy because of the Chechen crisis, the press centre of the Russian Government said in a statement today.

The statement said: "Statements have been made lately by some Russian and foreign politicians and appeared in the media alleging that the events in the Chechen Republic do considerable harm to the economic reform in Russia. In particular, officials of the group of seven countries expressed concern the other day that the actions of Russian troops in Chechnya can do harm to Moscow's efforts to stabilise the economy.

"Recent statements by the president and the government of the Russian Federation confirm the commitment of the Russian leadership to the policy of economic reforms. The main task of the country's economic policy for 1995 was and remains the attainment of financial stability on the basis of a tough budgetary, crediting and monetary policy. There will be no revision of this policy in connection with the events in Chechnya. The financing of this spending will be effected strictly within the framework of the federal budget's spending articles approved by the State Duma in second reading, and no additional outlays will be required.

"The Russian leadership is restoring constitutional order in the Chechen Republic, without which no stable development of the economy is possible in any country. The actions of the government in the Chechen Republic are designed to settle the conflict as soon as possible and to restore lawful institutes of power and economy of Chechnya.

"The Russian Government believes that the world community will display a balanced approach and understanding in evaluating the events in Chechnya. The world community's support of the Russian leadership's economic reform policy aiming to attain financial stabilisation is an important condition for their successful realisation".

Filatov Interviewed on Situation in Kremlin

954F1183B Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, president of Russia's chief of staff, by "Itogi" anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev; place and date not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiselev] Whether some analytic center formally exists somewhere in the bowels of the Kremlin structures, or the people working under Georgiy Rogozin—according to press reports, a former high-ranking official of the USSR KGB's Fifth Directorate and a specialist on all sorts of "black magic"—are not formally structured as such a center, one thing is clear: that the Kremlin's shadow politicians, who currently continue the fight to preserve and reinforce their power and influence, have realized that he who has information has the power, and the nature of the information that reaches the president's desk determines the nature of the decisions made. What in fact is happening inside the Kremlin, what processes are under way there, is the subject of our conversation of today in our studio with Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, the president of Russia's chief of staff.

[Kiselev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, during the few days of my participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, I formed the firm impression that the leading politicians, businessmen, and public opinion leaders in the West—and not only the West, since practically the entire world was represented there—are currently extremely worried over the fate of Russia and the development of the political situation in Russia; they are worried actually, surprising as it may be for many, not over the situation in Chechnya and not over the consequences of the war in Chechnya: They are worried most of all about the future political stability. Everybody asks this question: How stable is the political situation in our country, and to what extent is the president in control of the situation, or is someone operating behind his back? Inevitably, the question is asked: Who is General Korzhakov, the security service chief? Is he really such a politically influential figure? So, let us start with the last question. You, for instance, a person who knows the situation in the Kremlin probably better than many—do you believe that the chief of the presidential security service is indeed so politically influential?

[Filatov] Well, you began in general terms, and I also want to begin in general terms. You are correct with respect to the question of Russia's future; I also recently was in Paris and met with various political leaders, and also sensed their great concern over the future of Russia: Will it not veer off the road of reforms, veer off the road of democratization; will it not restrict its press, put it under control, so to say; and so on. These issues do concern them a lot. But I would say that these issues are somewhat converging now. For instance, I sensed that the West is somewhat concerned in connection with the military events and the increasing role of enforcement structures, their in a way coming to the forefront, and whether this might, so to say, translate into some kind of a dictatorship in the future.

[Kiselev] That is precisely what their concern is.

[Filatov] Yes, precisely this. Here, domestically, for instance, much greater emphasis is placed on a different topic. The topic, for instance, of a certain invisible shadow power operating in the country. Maybe more than one. Maybe...

[Kiselev] Well, for instance, the topic of the omnipotence of certain special services.

[Filatov] But I have to say that in this respect we have, for instance, this process—let us call it technology. Technology of what you call authority, and I call the technology of, for instance, preparing decisions. The technology of preparing, for instance, personnel decisions. The technology of preparing state decisions, which are expressed in legislative acts, presidential edicts, and government decrees. That is, the three main documents that govern the way our country functions. And let me assure you that this technology basically is observed. With respect to legislation, it is completely open altogether. With respect to presidential edicts... well, by our reckoning about 95 percent of presidential edicts go through this technological flow they are supposed to: They are drafted in certain centers, go through the structures coordinating them with the interested, so to say, agencies....

[Kiselev] But this means that 5 percent are signed in violation of the existing...

[Filatov] Well, outside the flow...

[Kiselev] Outside the flow...

[Filatov] ...Yes, certain edicts move outside the technological flow, and they are the ones that as a rule create a stir.

[Kiselev] Like the edict on relieving Savostyanov from his duties as the deputy chief of the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], which, the rumor is, was signed in a matter of two hours....

[Filatov] Yes, it did indeed move very fast and in the morning already was, so to say, all signed and sealed.

[Kiselev] And created a stir among the public....

[Filatov] Well, naturally it created a stir, because such an edict—at least that is the way I see it—normally, if it involves a personnel issue, it also has a bearing on the agency where this person works, and, for instance, some other structures...

[Kiselev] We have wandered off our subject....

[Filatov] Yes, we have.... You see, the reason I wanted to bring up this topic in general is that in our state everything that is handled outside the technology is a restricted-access system. Naturally, this system causes a lot of false rumors, it causes a lot of suspicions, it evokes fear among people, and perhaps it is not accidental, so to say, that this topic you brought up in the beginning—that it is brought up in society today, because many things are unclear, many things are hidden from the public, there are a lot of things that involve guesswork, and on top of that some people simply invent things. But a number of facts that have taken place lately, especially those things that Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov writes about in the latest issue, in his article in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, of course demonstrate those concerns you are also talking about.

[Kiselev] Such as the publication of an openly provocational article in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, aimed at discrediting the mayor—is it this what you mean back when...

[Filatov] Well, not only the mayor.... Generally speaking there also was more later....

[Kiselev] ...armed action at the mayoralty building...

[Filatov] Yes, yes, the Most Group....

[Kiselev] ...and the Most Group....

[Filatov] Yes, yes, involving the Most Group....

[Kiselev] ...yes, involving the Most Group....

[Filatov] ...which actually, strictly speaking, still remains a puzzle....

[Kiselev] And then this interview in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, where General Korzhakov, whose name you so assiduously try to avoid mentioning, says: "Goose hunting is my favorite hobby."

[Filatov] Yes, this involved not only Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov, who is tied into many things—both involving the Most Group and what happened, so to say, and the publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA—there are also many other figures mentioned in the press who are sort of targets for being knocked off the board, against whom certain attempts are being made to discredit them, cast a certain shadow over them. This, I think, also is our trouble, strictly speaking, and this also emanates from certain shadow structures engaged in this business.

[Kiselev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, not too long ago, you said in a public appearance—for that matter, you touched upon this subject twice. I mean, the fate of the mass media, the pressure they had been subjected to in connection with the events in Chechnya—you said that you get the impression that these rumors, these rumors that some decisions may be made limiting the freedom of the press, are in fact initiated by people who remain in the shadows and who essentially, as you put it, are playing against the president; and that you have the impression that even in the president's inner circle there are people who are trying to nudge the president into making unpopular decisions regarding the mass media. Do you still have this impression? And do you not think that because perhaps of the absence of this technology of authority, this technology of decisionmaking, there are certain people somewhere behind Boris Nikolayevich's back who take advantage of this situation and for their narrow mercenary purposes are perhaps trying, to put it bluntly, to set the president up?

[Filatov] Well, actually there are in fact people who are trying to push through some particular decisions....

[Kiselev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, you speak all the time without mentioning any concrete names. Why are you avoiding pointing at specific people? After all, when you say that there are such people, you certainly know...

[Filatov] Well, you see, you and I...

[Kiselev] ...who these people are, do you not?

[Filatov] ...we are not talking about our kitchen, Yevgeniy Alekseyevich. We are talking about... well, actually, the conversation sort off veered off this subject. We began our conversation in general about the future of Russia—what concerns [the West]. I do not think they are concerned about our kitchen. But our kitchen is still...

[Kiselev] You know, actually they are very concerned...

[Filatov] But it is not yet fully set up; we are still working on it. Speaking on a broader scale about Russia in general, its future, and about what you started with: Who is the guarantor, so to say; is the president in charge—these questions I can answer unequivocally: The guarantor today is the president, and he is completely in charge of the situation. And the guarantee of this, I think, of late, and not only of late—the past year shows it—is our good rapport, the rapport with the State Duma, with the Federation Council. Because the whole process is successful there. And since it is successful, we can work out and eliminate all these shortcomings of ours. Precisely thanks to the mass media, and society, which is alarmed, and this alarm is reaching everybody. It will enable us to resolve all these questions, so to say. You see you can slip into a different kind of conversation, conduct it at a different level: Who did this—oh, this one? Well, but then what do we do with him tomorrow?

[Kiselev] What you are saying is absolutely correct and probably is this way. But then, a question comes up: There are people who do not want to go along the way you were talking about....

[Filatov] Yevgeniy Alekseyevich...

[Kiselev] ...they constantly create obstacles, hurdles, problems...

[Filatov] In the kind of society we live in, this is the way it is to be, and therefore...

[Kiselev] ...so would it not be easier...

[Filatov] ...and therefore everything should be regulated by law. Because in a unitary state one man at the top says something, and the rest begin to act in unison, so to say, along this vector. In the society we live in today, there may be a great many such vectors. It is very important to build a structure, a system, mechanisms, technology, as we talked about, you see? As to who represents this or that vector—Ivanov, Petrov, or Sidorov—this is of absolutely no importance. Today it is these people, and tomorrow it will be others....

[Kiselev] That is, you believe that if, for instance, some of the Kremlin court intrigants are removed, in the absence of the mechanism of authority...

[Filatov] Nothing will change.

[Kiselev] ...new ones will come...

[Filatov] ...nothing will change, of course. If there are loopholes in the process and they may be taken advantage of, people will necessarily take advantage of them. This is an axiom.

[Kiselev] We are talking here in a way about strategic problems and tactics. Here is a concrete item I can give as an example, a concrete situation involving the presidential edict on Kovalev's appointment. Sergey Adamovich Kovalev was appointed an authorized human rights representative. The edict dated... well, it was signed in August, relatively recently, in August 1994, and for all intents and purposes it says that all officials are to render all necessary assistance to Sergey Adamovich in his official capacity. On the other hand, we have numerous examples how all sorts of obstacles and barriers to his work are being created now. The latest incident: He was barred from flying to Mozdok together with a delegation of European observers. What are we to do with this? In real terms, the presidential edict is being ignored.

[Filatov] Well, regarding the latest incident, I also saw it on television. And I also think it was an outrage. Yes. But... we have to sort out why this edict is being violated. And I think that the president—he too is in a dual role. By the way, in a moral sense I also see some fault in it of the State Duma too, because the Duma appointed the human rights representative, but unlike the president, did not give him a law governing his actions. I think this whole set, well, it enables some people to, well, treat what Kovalev is doing at their own discretion. And although I myself had some questions, so to say, regarding his actions, the question you brought up is absolutely justified.

[Kiselev] Approximately a week ago, you said that the world will judge the situation in Chechnya on the basis of what Kovalev will say at the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly in Strasburg, where he flew today. Do you still believe so?

[Filatov] Yes, I still believe so because I know that Kovalev is not merely popular—he enjoys tremendous trust in this world. And it is not accidental that the report he wrote, and the questions that were formulated on the basis of this report—the famous 20 questions to which we provided answers and which we presented to the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly—all of this was unquestionably with his participation. And to be formally... Formally, experts concluded that we are not ready to join the Council of Europe. And by formal attributes Russia cannot be accepted.

[Kiselev] But Kovalev...

[Filatov] But Kovalev...

[Kiselev] ...calls for accepting us anyway...

[Filatov] ...yes, yes, and with his guarantees things move faster in general.

[Kiselev] And you can imagine how these prospects are undermined...

[Filatov] I do, and I think that...

[Kiselev] ...by people who put spanners in the wheels...

[Filatov] I think they are foolish, shortsighted, and not too bright people.

[Kiselev] ...who say that he is Russia's enemy.

[Filatov] [sighs] Unfortunately...

[Kiselev] Well, let us still hope for the better, Sergey Aleksandrovich.

[Filatov] Of course, let us.

'Itogi' on Korzhakov's Analytic Center

954F1183A Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Segment of NTV's "Itogi" program on the Russian President's Security Service analytic center, reported by NTV correspondents Marianna Maksimovskaya, Roman Mikhalenko, and Stanislav Plotnikov, with an introduction by Yevgeniy Kiselev]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiselev] Undoubtedly the main sensation in the January rating of Russia's leading politicians is that the second place in it went to Aleksandr Korzhakov, chief of the president of Russia's security service. Actually, this sensation could be predicted, if we recall how General Korzhakov's rating had been changing over the past several months, beginning from the point when in October of last year—1994—he became increasingly active on the political scene. In October 1994, if you recall, experts placed Aleksandr Korzhakov seventh on the list of the 10 most influential politicians in Russia. November 1994: Korzhakov moves from seventh place to fourth. December 1994: General Korzhakov moves one more line up in this list—now he is third. January 1995: The president's security service chief is ranked by experts second among the top 10 Russian politicians. In other words, experts ranked him third in influence in the country after the president and the prime minister.

Meanwhile, another noteworthy event of the past week, which is difficult to view out of the context of the things we were just talking about, was a major public appearance—the first in a long while—of Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. Until then there were rumors that the mayor of Moscow for well-known reasons was in disfavor and preferred not to appear in public, or at least not to discourse publicly, especially on political topics. And now the mayor steps forward, and on top of that immediately makes several strong political statements. Many analysts interpreted this event as a sign of the changing disposition of forces among the Russian political elite, inside its highest echelon. The sensational article in IZVESTIYA about certain Kremlin shadow advisers was perceived as evidence that simultaneously with this, democratic forces are regrouping and, having consolidated, are embarking on a counter- offensive of sorts. More on this in the material of our correspondent Marianna Maksimovskaya.

[Maksimovskaya] On Tuesday 24 January, Moscow Mayor Luzhkov held a press conference on various problems of the capital city, where he quite unexpectedly leveled criticism at various analytical structures—which he did not name—which flagrantly interfere in various spheres of political and business life.

[Luzhkov] Several such reviews have come across my desk, which are written in an apparently scholarly manner but in reality attempt to present—very falsely—the Government of Moscow as a certain financial-industrial [group], which on top of this is forming its own muscle units, muscle structures—apparently referring to the fact that banks—and first and foremost the Most-Bank—have security units. This is all very dangerous. This is dangerous both for the Russian state, and the president, and the authority. I think that the action against the Most Group was one of the results of such pseudo-, vulgar analytic research.

[Maksimovskaya] On the same day, IZVESTIYA published an article on the growing influence of the Kremlin's shadow advisers. The subject of the article by IZVESTIYA commentator Valeriy Vyzhutovich is a mysterious information and analysis center, which allegedly is located, according to the author, a three-minute walk from the Kremlin and belongs, according to the author's information, to the presidential security service. The article names the precise address—5 Varvarka; the staff size—between 50 and 60; and the center's products—from the so-called "Version No. 1" to so-called "active measures," that is, fabricated materials that first are published in the press and then used as a pretext to begin surveillance, tapping, and other operational measures against people, including politicians. And finally, the article names the center's supervisor. According to the newspaper's information, he is Georgiy Rogozin, deputy chief of the presidential security service, about whom the press reported earlier that at some time in the past he worked in the KGB's Fifth Directorate, which among other things was responsible for operations against dissidents. There were also reports that it was Rogozin who there headed the department whose job was to stir up society's interest in all sorts of flying saucers, extrasensory perception, and telepathy, in order to divert the attention of everybody—especially the intelligentsia—from politics. And now, IZVESTIYA reports, Georgiy Rogozin heads a whole analytic department—again top secret. We, on our part, attempted to verify the newspaper's information and inquired first of all at the presidential security service. The service's representative Andrey Oligov [as heard] told us over the telephone that the service does not have any secret center; what it has is several analysts—just as, he said, any other organization.

So far, we have been unable to find out, either from the president's security service or from his staff, who precisely occupies this building in the Staraya Ploshchad complex, although, as we were told in the security service, there is indeed an analytic center here, except that it does not belong to this service but to the recently reorganized information administration of the president's staff. Whatever is located here, however, this "whatever" undoubtedly is very well guarded. At least, when journalists show up near the building, security reacts immediately.

[Begin scene with a security man]

[Maksimovskaya] Filming is not forbidden?

[Security man] No, it is not forbidden.

[Maksimovskaya] Why do you ask me then?

[Security man] It is of interest to us.

[Maksimovskaya] Why is it of interest to you?

[Security man] For the purpose of our security. You are not privy to everything—what is permitted and what is not. After all, not every place has posted signs—where is permitted and where not. There are no such signs anywhere anyway except museums, which tell you what you may take pictures of and what you may not, and what is free and what you have to pay for. [End of scene with security man]

[Maksimovskaya] As to the presidential staff officials, to the question of the possibility of the existence of a special service secret analytic center they give practically the same answer.

Mark Urnov, chief of the presidential analysis and information service. [identified by caption]

[Urnov] There cannot be a special service without analysts. This is stupid. So it has them. And if there are analysts, this means that they produce some sort of analytic reports, some memoranda, and send them to the president. That is, what is going on is a normal development of the state apparat, which follows all immortal laws, including Parkinson's Law: When there is a structure, it grows, and it wants more influence....

Anatoliy Rakitin, adviser to the president's staff. [identified by caption]

[Rakitin] If it does exist, it does not represent any danger to anyone. This is an internal matter of the presidential security service, and to the best of my knowledge, this service does not have any plans to encroach on any functions of the government, the president, or the president's staff.

[Maksimovskaya] Actually, there are currently many things that refute the thesis regarding the security service's noninterference in state affairs. Suffice it to recall, for instance, the famous letter of the service's chief, General Korzhakov, to the prime minister, in which Aleksandr Korzhakov objects to the removal of oil export quotas. Valeriy Vyzhutovich cites in IZVESTIYA another document which, the journalist contends, was also produced by the same mysterious analytic center. It is a draft for the creation of elite special-purpose units—the National Guard. No one in the president's staff denies the existence of such a draft. On the other hand, no one, including official analysts, knows the author.

[Urnov] I think that the existence of any kind of professional elite units is not all that bad, especially at a time when all sorts of reorganizations are taking place—of special services, the military, and all others....

[Maksimovskaya] Interestingly, though, the same people who fully support this idea also point out its weak points.

[Rakitin] I want to remind you that in Rome, the Praetorian Guard very often removed emperors and appointed them. There is this danger too.

[Maksimovskaya] Speaking of the danger of the special service's secret analytic center, the IZVESTIYA author means first and foremost this center's growing influence and the corresponding weakening of the influence of official information and analysis services.

[Vyzhutovich] Lately the staff in the analytic center under the president began to experience... began to feel on their neck, I would say, the confident breathing of invisible competitors and felt that they were losing influence. They felt that there was someone fulfilling their functions, and whose materials obviously were more trusted by the Kremlin; many official analysts told me precisely this.

[Maksimovskaya] The head of the official analytic service, Mark Urnov, disagrees with this, although he does see many shortcomings in the organization of the authorities' information support.

[Urnov] Because when some complex problem is being worked on, and in it, as in Chechnya, from the very beginning only one narrow component is taken into account, and a strictly military approach is predominant, this is very bad. Because there is practically no analysis and evaluation of potential political developments, no evaluation of the society's reaction, no evaluation of the information reaction....

[Maksimovskaya] Especially considering that it had been known for ages that when a king listens only to his retinue, as a rule, as a result of this he finds himself naked.

Rutskoy Still Preparing for Elections Despite Split

LD0702210295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—In spite of reports about his expulsion from the Russian Social-Democratic Popular Party [RSDPP] the former Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy still regards himself as its chairman and is going to start preparing the party for the State Duma elections due in December 1995.

Asked about the statement issued to the mass media that the party's board under Vasiliy Lipitskiy had suspended his membership Rutskoy recalled that he had been elected by the party congress and only the congress could vote him out of office, and that would never happen. Rutskoy said that State Duma member Lipitsky led only a tiny group of party members, who understood the Russian social- democratic movement as the "regime's dog's tail".

Rutskoy says that the party's Federal Council last Saturday described as unsatisfactory the performance of the RSDPP board and that Lipitskiy was dismissed as board chairman. Rutskoy said the session was attended by 41 representative from 65 regions where the party has its offices.

The party's next congress will take place in late March or early April and will make a decision on participation in parliamentary elections. Rutskoy is certain that the RSDPP will win a considerable number of seats in parliament.

Earlier Russia's former Vice-President declared his intention to run for presidency in June 1996.

Security Official on States of Emergency

954F1188B Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 1 Feb 95 p 3

[Interview with Viktor Mironov, deputy chairman of the Committee of the State Duma of the Russian Federation for Security, by the Press Consortium; place and date not given: "State of Emergency Procedures—What Does This Mean?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Press Consortium] Viktor Pimenovich, what legislative provisions today regulate matters connected with the imposition of a state of emergency?

[Mironov] There is a law on a state of emergency that was adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, but it is too politicized and declarative. It lacks a mechanism of the realization of many provisions. Our Security Committee is proposing the draft of an entirely new law on a state of emergency. I would like to mention that this draft was not written with a view to the specific personality occupying the office of president, and it may even be said that the draft is apolitical. And it should be emphasized here that a compromise between deputies of different and, at times, antagonistic political views was found. Both representatives of the Communist Party and deputies from Russia's Choice took part in the elaboration of the draft. There were initially two concepts—one bill was drafted by the Legislation Committee, the other, by the Security Committee. But we know that when there are alternative versions, a law is very hard to adopt. For this reason we formed a working group and took the best from both bills. We have forwarded the single bill thus obtained to all components of the Federation, the president, and the Federation Council.

[Press Consortium] Could you mention the most fundamental provisions of this document?

[Mironov] First, it contains the basic requirements to which a presidential edict on the imposition of state of emergency procedures should correspond. If only one of the elements is not taken into consideration, the edict shall simply be deemed null and void. It contains the following strict provision: Unless within 72 hours following promulgation of the presidential edict it is approved by the Federation Council, the edict shall be considered null and void, and none of the officials to whom it is addressed shall be entitled to implement it.

When elaborating the draft, we encountered quite a difficult situation. On the one hand, it was essential to determine relatively strict measures aimed at a normalization of the situation, and on the other, to safeguard the rights and liberties of the citizens who did not perpetrate the actions that contributed to the imposition of the state of emergency.

[Press Consortium] How does your draft protect society against possible malfeasance on the part of the authorities at a time of state of emergency procedures?

[Mironov] Our bill excludes the possibility of a change in the constitutional system in the period of state of emergency procedures. In other words, it will not be possible either to dissolve parliament or revise the Constitution or stage elections or a referendum. On the contrary, parliament in the shape of the Federation Council shall establish strict supervision of the actions of the executive structures in implementation of the state of emergency procedures. And if something somewhere is not as it should be, the Federation Council shall be entitled to cancel these procedures.

[Press Consortium] On whom, according to your version, will the final normalization of the situation in the region in which the state of emergency is imposed depend?

[Mironov] A three-stage mechanism is instituted here. In the event of state of emergency procedures being imposed for the first time, the Russian president shall appoint a superintendent. He shall by no means substitute for the local organs of executive and legislative power, but shall perform functions pertaining to the restoration of order, a normalization of the situation, and the removal of the conditions that led to the imposition of the state of emergency procedures. Before a state of emergency is imposed, what is more, the president shall be required to demand of the leaders of the executive and legislative authorities of the areas where a critical situation has taken shape the normalization of the situation within a particular time frame. Unless this is done, the state of emergency procedures shall be imposed. In the event of a repeat imposition of state of emergency procedures, a provisional organ of executive power shall be created on the corresponding territory. This measure is aimed at "spurring" the executive and legislature of the region and forcing them themselves to normalize the situation, for who, if not they, knows the actual state of affairs. If, however, the state of emergency procedures operate for 12 months and the situation is not stabilized in this time, federal administration of the state of emergency territory shall be instituted. The activity of all branches of power in this area shall then be suspended, and the functions of the executive shall be exercised by the federal organs of administration in a state of emergency mode. The state does not have the right to ignore for so long a period of time violations of the citizens' rights and liberties, a threat to territorial integrity, and so forth.

[Press Consortium] In what situations may a state of emergency be imposed in this region or the other?

[Mironov] First, a state of emergency may be imposed in the case of interethnic conflicts or armed rebellion, which is what we have in Chechnya. In addition, a state of emergency may be brought about by special situations of a criminal nature, when the local law enforcement authorities are no longer in a position to normalize the situation and power is in fact being seized by criminal structures. Finally, there are states of emergency of a technogenic, environmental, and other natural nature. These are the three groups of circumstances in respect to which a state of emergency may be imposed.

I would like to mention that our bill takes account of the rules of international law and all agreements and standards of the United Nations and regulates the mechanism of foreign states' rendering of humanitarian assistance.

[Press Consortium] In what event might a state of emergency be declared on the territory of all of Russia?

[Mironov] In the event of a threat to the constitutional system, when some force decides to take power forcibly.

[Press Consortium] How does your draft regulate the use of the Armed Forces in areas of a state of emergency?

[Mironov] Federal forces, according to our draft, guard vital facilities and facilities representing a danger to the health of society, the environment, and so forth. In addition, their assignments include the disarmament of gangster formations with heavy equipment. The main responsibility for realization of state of emergency procedures, however, is borne by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the internal troops.

Yeltsin Appoints New Presidential Aide

LD0802105695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 8 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today signed a decree appointing Mikhail Krasnov his new aide, the presidential press-service reported on Wednesday [8 February].

Mikhail Alexandrovich Krasnov, LLD, earlier served as a secretary to the president's aide for national security in charge of legal problems.

Yeltsin Promises Decree To Eliminate Wage Delays

LD0702194795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (Interfax)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has promised to issue a decree to help enterprises pay wages to their workers without delay, the Orel Region governor said Tuesday.

Yegor Stroyev, commenting on a meeting Yeltsin had on Monday with regional governors, said Yeltsin "took seriously" a request they had made for the share of reserve wage funds in enterprises' total receipts to be raised from 30% to 50%. The sizes of such funds will be set specially for each industry, Stroyev told a news conference in Moscow. He said the governors had also asked for changes in a present-day procedure whereby the money enterprises receive for wages comes after all other payments.

Also, "no matter how difficult the economic situation is, wages for doctors, teachers, research workers and those employed in the field of culture will be guaranteed by the budget and their payment will be ensured," Stroyev quoted Yeltsin as saying.

Military & Space Issues

New Director of State Arms Company on Arms Trade

LD0702230795 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Natalya Chernyshova] The undeclared war in North Caucasus has pushed into the background a major re-division of the Russian arms market. In the meantime, over the last two months curious events have taken place there. The previous director general of Rosvooruzheniye [State Arms Export and Import Company] has been relieved of his post and a new director general has been appointed. Yet another committee, that of military and technical policy, has been set up. And today a Coordinating and Monitoring Council for Problems of Military and Technical Cooperation became operational. The council includes about 80 heads of defense enterprises and staffers of Rosvooruzheniye who are expected to find agreed solutions to disputes. And as we know, disputes are caused by money. The thing is that the defense industry, geared toward export, has voiced the wish to sell its weapons itself, something that has caused a great confusion in the arms market and sent the prices down.

[Begin A. Kotelkin recording, Rosvooruzheniye director general] According to our expert estimates, last year's damage was between $500-600 million. [end recording]

[Chernyshova] According to Kotelkin, the overall receipts amounted to $1.7 billion, a despicable sum for a country like Russia. At the same time, the increasing independence of enterprises is a fact that has to be recognized. The producers of MiG aircraft have already obtained the official right to enter the foreign market. The committee seems to be set up precisely for the purpose of eliminating Rosvooruzheniye's monopoly and determining who owes whom, what items and at what price.

[Begin Kotelkin recording] You are right, it is true that we are going to lose our monopoly, to a degree. But the growth of these enterprises in stature means a new economic potential in the defense industry, and Rosvooruzheniye will give every possible assistance to this process. [end recording]

[Chernyshova] It will be premature, however, to believe that Rosvooruzheniye has resigned itself and surrendered its positions.

[Begin Kotelkin recording] We have to go through a transitional stage. Who knows the markets better [than ourselves]? Where are the people who can speak foreign languages? Where are the people who have worked in those markets, have lived in particular countries, know the prime minister or the foreign minister of a given country and can speak with them and inspire confidence? [end recording]

[Chernyshova] So, the struggle for the arms market will continue not only outside, but also within Russia.

Yeltsin Criticizes Draft Law on Alternative Civil Service

LD0702194895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday sent a written message to Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the State Duma, in which he qualifies the draft law "On Alternative Civil Service", which was adopted by the Duma in the first reading, as "insufficiently worked-out in a conceptual sense". (It is a matter of offering Russian conscripts the right to choose between serving in the Army and opting for an alternative civil service).

According to Yeltsin, the draft law will have to be brought into harmony with the Russian Constitution. In particular, it is inadmissible, in his opinion, to unlawfully misinterpret several clauses of the fundamental law, which treat of concrete constitutional rights of citizens, by a term "conscientious objections".

The Russian President also disapproves of the fact that the draft law empowers local authorities with tackling the organizational issues of the alternative civil service, because he fears lest abuses at local level should undermine Russia's national interests.

Besides, Yeltsin proposes to point out in the wording of the draft law that Russian Armed Forces should enjoy priority rights in employing conscripts, who have chosen an alternative civil service, for jobs which have nothing to do with arms.

Lack of Resources Puts Border Protection at Risk

MM0702114195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report on border guard situation by Ye. Kuznetsova, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kuznetsova over video of press conference, unspecified border installations, border guards on duty and training] We have gotten used to everyone asking the government for more money. However, when the supplicants are generals and when, moreover, they are saying that there is no money to ensure the security of the fatherland's borders, this cannot be ignored.

Ranking border guard officers claimed today that their department has reached crisis point. No one is any longer talking about unfortunate families of officers without housing. The border guard service, in general, is living on credit. It owes everyone, even canning factories. Because of lack of money restoration work in the Kurils has ground to a halt. Ships and aircraft, way beyond their service life, are going out of commission. And there is nothing to replace them with. Generally speaking, funds for maintaining combat capability are running out. This spells breaches of the border.

[A. Shcherbakov, deputy commander in chief of the Federal Border Guard Service of the Russian Federation, identified by caption] Individual sectors of the state border could become unguarded, or guarded to a level which does not ensure the protection of Russia's interests in these areas.

[Kuznetsova over video of a column of armored carriers on the move] The border guard officers stated that they are carrying out their tasks in Chechnya, but carrying them out on armored carriers dating back to the Taman events.

[Shcherbakov to camera] True, our guys arrived in Chechnya in armored carriers, but the carriers date back to the times when we joined the service as young lieutenants, and we are about to retire still using the same hardware.

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Amur Flotilla To Guard PRC Border

LD0702130695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1237 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today on setting up an Amur border river flotilla, as part of the Russian border troops.

The decree, released by the president's press office today, states that the flotilla is being set up to improve the guarding of the border with China. The flotilla administration will be based in Khabarovsk.

Company Plans To Reorganize Space Industry

MK0702122495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman in the "Reform" column: "The Oldest Enterprise in the Country's Military Industrial Complex Wants To Enter the World Space Market. The Enterprise Administration Office Will Host Parliamentary Hearings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The board of directors of the St. Petersburg Arsenal plant has invited State Duma deputies (defense committee) to hold hearings at the plant on the concept for the development of the Russian space industry. The invitation was accepted. The Duma detail is to arrive at Arsenal on 16 December. Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Russian Space Agency Director Yuriy Koptev will take part in the defense committee's session outside the Duma walls.

Founded back in 1711 under Peter the Great's express edict, Arsenal is the oldest enterprise of the domestic military industrial complex. The plant's foundry, which produced ship cannons, gave its name to a St. Petersburg avenue [Liteynyy Prospekt]. Before 1917 the enterprise marked its jubilees along with festivities celebrating the ascent of the Romanov dynasty to the Russian throne. It was apparently due to such a "suspicious" affinity that the communist authorities, the master of former Leningrad, postponed the celebration of Arsenal's 250th anniversary till 1969. Moreover, party archivists failed to come up with any traces of Arsenal workers' participating in the storming of the Winter Palace and in other revolutionary events. It turned out that during the Bolshevik coup the plant was working in its regular mode.

Yet it was not only tribute to historical traditions that made the parliamentarians accept the invitation. Today Arsenal is the only one of the 10 major space industry enterprises which has used an opportunity to change its ownership status. In September 1993, under a Russian Federation Government decree, an industrial group was created on the basis of the Arsenal production complex. The group comprised eight joint-stock subsidiary companies: three main plants—the defense plant (missile and artillery weapons and space naval reconnaissance equipment), the compressor plant, and the consumer goods plants; five ancillary units, and the Arsenal management company, which works out general development strategy, attracts investments, and coordinates the production and financial activity of subsidiary structures. Privatization has been completed in four joint-stock companies, and closed stock subscription has been held in the remaining enterprises. By mid-1995 the holding company management plans to finish the process of changing the ownership. Thus, Arsenal today constitutes a unique site for testing a new model of state regulation of the country's missile- space complex.

The preservation of the old management system, Arsenal General Director Vyacheslav Petrov believes, will lead to the industry's total collapse in two to three years. After the disintegration of the USSR and sharp cuts in defense spending, a largely untapped scientific and production potential has concentrated at missile and space complex enterprises, just like in the entire defense sector. The space articles of the 1994 defense budget constitute 12 percent of the 1989 total. The enterprises' obligations to preserve mobilization capacities force them to sustain huge losses in maintaining idle facilities. At Arsenal, for instance, only 40 percent of defense capacities are being used. Meanwhile the Defense Ministry, the Russian Space Agency, and the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry—the three masters of Russian "space"—are, according to Petrov, for the most part, engaged in a struggle for control over the distribution of state resources: "A division of enterprises, power, and funds is under way." All the masters see the only way out of the present situation in increasing budget financing.

According to Arsenal management, an alternative source of financing lies in putting the space industry on a commercial footing. Company Vice President Vitaliy Sychev believes that Russia has good chances of operating on the world space market. Conversion of military space equipment to civilian needs does not call for particularly great outlays. The Arsenal Design Bureau has developed a new generation of spacecraft that can be easily adapted to programs for ecological monitoring of the upper layers of the atmosphere, to prospect for mineral resources, forecast earthquakes, and find stolen cars. Arsenal could attract $100 million in investments.

Nonetheless, no real commercialization of the space industry is happening in Russia. The production building, designed to produce new-generation satellites, has been rented out to a customs terminal. The fact is that under current legislation, a non-state enterprise may not give guarantees to its partners over the use of state cosmodromes.

In preparation for the important event set for 16 February, Arsenal's board of directors has elaborated its own project to reform the Russian space industry. The project envisions the creation of five to eight independent corporations based on the reorganization of leading enterprises. The functions of state regulation will be transferred to the Russian Space Agency, which, in an analogy with NASA, will become coordinator and sponsor of space projects. All defense programs are to be written as special entries in the protected part of the state budget. Placement of military orders is to be done on a competitive basis. Enterprises holding a license for space activity will be given legislative guarantees for using the state infrastructure for space launches.

Arsenal has every chance of winning the competition over commercial projects with future independent corporations. The company's attractiveness will sharply increase after it receives the plant territory into ownership (a land area of 46 hectares in downtown St. Petersburg). St. Petersburg City Hall gave all privatized enterprises a New Year's gift by legalizing procedures for acquiring land and registering ownership rights.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Informs Regional Leaders of Present Situation

LD0602212895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 6 (INTERFAX)—At their meeting in Moscow Monday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin informed a number of regional leaders of the situation in the country, progress in economic reforms and work on his annual address to the Federal Assembly. The presidential press office reported that the meeting focused on "ways to strengthen Russian statehood and improve the center's interaction with the regions."

The meeting also touched on the preparation for a nationwide conference on local self-government.

The statesmen exchanged opinions on draft laws regulating the federal bodies' cooperation with the regions, submitted by Yeltsin to the State Duma.

Deputies Reject Yeltsin Edict on N. Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD0702164195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The upper Parliament chamber today voted down a decree of President Yeltsin "On the Introduction of State of Emergency on Part of Territories of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia". The decree was signed on February 4.

Sources told ITAR-TASS after a closed-door discussion that the decree was supported by 76 deputies as compared to the necessary minimum of 90.

Chairman of the chamber's Committee for Security and Defence Petr Shirshov told ITAR-TASS that the presidential decree "becomes invalid" in accordance with the constitution.

Leaders View State of Emergency

LD0702175695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1730 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

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Chairman of the chamber's Committee for Security and Defence Petr Shirshov told ITAR-TASS that the presidential decree "becomes invalid" in accordance with the Constitution.

He said that the situation in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone should now be viewed in the context of the Chechen developments. Shirshov believes that actions of the illegal armed units have complicated the elimination of consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and there is a real threat to security of people living on part of Ossetian territory.

The committee chairman thinks that "the presidential structures should have agreed with deputies on a variant of the decree if they really wanted to bring constitutional order to the conflict zone". Meanwhile, presidential decrees have been the same for months and did not help to settle the problem.

Ingush President Ruslan Aushev has told ITAR-TASS he is against prolongation of the decree bearing in mind the regime, which has been regularly prolonged for over a year, "does not settle the problems related to the regional conflict, primarily the return of refugees from Ingushetia to the North Ossetian Prigorodniy region".

North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov has a different opinion. He told ITAR-TASS that the state of emergency regime "is stabilizing regional situation and prevents a possibility of new inter-ethnic clashes". The North Ossetian leader does not think that the presidential decree of January 31 has become invalid because the upper parliament chamber failed to approve it.

Some deputies have called for the creation of a conciliatory commission to develop a new text of the decree. Under the Constitution, the deputies do not have the right to amend the presidential decree.

Kokoshin Says State Must Pay Debts to Defense Industry

LD0702182095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—The Russian State Duma, the lower parliament chamber, has begun hearings in view of the third reading of the law on 1995 federal budget. The hearings are focused, in particular, on the state debt to defence plants.

In the words of First Deputy Russian Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin, "payment of the state debt to the Armed Forces and the defence industry is a major element of defence financing".

According to the Duma Committee for Defence, the debt for arms deliveries and defence plants is estimated at 3,200 billion rubles. The plants, scientific-research institutes and design bureaus cannot finalize the state defence order for 1995 before the debt problem is settled.

On request of the Defence Ministry, the government has allowed to conclude agreements worth of up to 80 per cent to the budget-fixed sums, reports the information department of the Russian Defence Ministry.

Zhirinovskiy To Demand Rybkin, Yerin Resign After Murder

LD0702205995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—At the plenary session of the State Duma Wednesday, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) and its faction in the State Duma, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, intends to demand the sacking of State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin "following their failure to take measures to ensure the safety of State Duma deputies."

State Duma Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Vengerovskiy of the LDPR faction made this statement in an interview with Interfax Tuesday after the faction discussed the recent murder of one of its members, State Duma deputy Sergey Skorochkin, on February 2.

Vengerovskiy said the funeral ceremony had been adjourned from Wednesday to Thursday at the request of Skorochkin's mother. He added that Zhirinovskiy wanted the ceremony to be held in the State Duma building instead of the ritual hall of the Central Clinical Hospital as is usual.

"According to the Orthodox tradition, the burial service is to be read over the deceased not in the morgue, but in his home or place of work," Vengerovskiy remarked.

The LDPR faction asked Zhirinovskiy to propose the State Duma "develop and approve a procedure for immortalizing the memory of deputies deceased while fulfilling their duties by installing commemoration plaques on the State Duma building."

Skorochkin withdrew from the deputies' group December 12 Liberal Democratic Union in May 1994 to join the LDPR faction several months later.

Renews Call for Resignation

LD0802094695 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy addressed a sitting of the State Duma today and demanded that Minister of Internal Affairs Viktor Yerin and Speaker Ivan Rybkin should resign.

He said that his party [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia—LDPR] will not participate in the work of the State Duma until they resign. Zhirinovskiy contends that Rybkin and Yerin failed to ensure the personal safety of the murdered deputy Sergey Skorochkin.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Chief of Staff Filatov on Chechnya

MK0802114095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 9 5-12 Feb 95 (Signed to press 7 Feb) pp 1, 6-7

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, Russian presidential chief of staff, by Lyudmila Telen under the "Specially for 'MN'" rubric: "Russian Authority in the Mirror of Chechen War"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Telen] How unexpected did the decision on starting a military operation in Chechnya come for you personally?

[Filatov] In my judgment, the decision on disarming the Dudayev forces followed logically from the situation that emerged. But the decision to bring troops in was by itself fairly unexpected. It should be recalled that in 1994 the political situation in the republic changed abruptly, a joint opposition began to constitute itself. Moreover, this opposition was pro-Russian; its leaders saw Chechnya as part of the Russian Federation. According to our information, these forces would have gained strength in society as early as by next summer, whereas Dudayev would have lost his. Actually, it was under pressure from the opposition that he made a decision on calling elections in fall of 1995.

[Telen] That is to say, events were actually evolving in accordance with Russian interests? So did it make any sense to rush them?

[Filatov] Opposition leaders doubted that Dudayev would allow democratic elections to take place. In addition, seeing the desperate situation in which the republic had found itself, they proposed that the elections be held in 1994. So the outcome of the events no longer depended to any considerable extent on the federal authorities. [passage omitted]

[Telen] At what level was the official decision on arms deliveries to the opposition made?

[Filatov] No decision on that has officially been made.

[Telen] And what about the recruitment of mercenaries from among Russian servicemen by the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]? Was the country's top leadership informed about that?

[Filatov] I am not aware of the FCS bodies' involvement in the recruitment. Yes, there were contractees, but it is a question with whom they concluded their contracts. I think, with representatives of the opposition.

[Telen] Emissaries of the [Chechen] opposition to carry out recruitment in active military units of the Russian Army? Can this be possible?

[Filatov] This question is not mine.

[Telen] But it was the FCS that finally paid compensation to the POW's who were taken prisoner by the Dudayev forces and subsequently released?

[Filatov] I do not think this was the case. It did pay FCS officers involved. But they ex officio can be present in any place on the territory of the Russian Federation and quite legitimately so.

[Telen] Vladimir Kvasov, former government chief of staff, said in an interview for OBSHCHAYA GAZETA that all telephones and offices at the White House are tapped. The same is said about the Kremlin.

[Filatov] Yes, everybody thinks that telephones and offices are being tapped. I cannot rule this out either. But we have become distracted... [passage omitted]

[Telen] Do you think that the idea of the country's integrity is worth thousands of human lives, including civilians?

[Filatov] And what losses would there have been had the Dudayev dictatorship definitively gained the upper hand? If, according to our intelligence, within the past three years hundreds of thousands of people left the republic and over 3,000 were killed.

[Telen] But there was an option to hold talks with the general. Had the Russian side agreed to these, at a sufficiently high level at that, bloodshed could possibly have been avoided. Did the Kremlin have the right to waste this chance?

[Filatov] There has been no such chance, as earlier attempts convincingly prove. Let us exclude the subject of talks with Dudayev from our conversation. After a certain moment they have become impossible under any circumstances.

[Telen] But talks can be held even with terrorists...

[Filatov] Only about conditions of their surrender to the authorities and for the sake of rescuing hostages. We, however, have been invited to talk about Chechnya's future.

[Telen] On the contrary, the most serious politicians say that the consideration of Chechnya's status should be left outside these talks and put off until later.

[Filatov] The question of Chechnya's status was resolved in the Russian Federation Constitution. There is nothing to talk about.

[Telen] But for three years Russia did put up with the fact that Chechnya's actual position was at odds with its official status, didn't it?

[Filatov] There were objective reasons for that: Russia's difficult economic situation and a standoff between authorities. At the time, Russia had to avoid decisive action so as to prevent war from breaking out on its territory.

But sooner or later we had to restore order, by using force if necessary. As a matter of fact, just as all democratic states do pretty often within their territories.

[Telen] But they use police methods to bring order. Russia, however, has unleashed a large-scale war, using all types of weapons and violating numerous international conventions in the process.

[Filatov] Unfortunately, I have to admit that during this conflict Russia has violated the rights of the civilian population. Probably we should have taken steps to evacuate people, to protect them, then there would have been no such stain on our state's reputation.

[Telen] Does the president realize that he bears direct responsibility for that?

[Filatov] The president made a political decision. Its consequences, however, depended on how the operation was planned, how it was carried out, and what forces were involved. It is well known that the president did none of that. [passage omitted]

[Telen] Could you then name the military officers, economists, or ethnic problems specialists who promised the president a speedy and painless settlement of the Chechen crisis? Who else apart from the defense minister?

[Filatov] I do not know these names. Just as the rest of us, I can only suggest, proceeding from the understanding that this question was considered by the Security Council.

[Telen] But the names of those other people who opposed that and continue to do so are, on the contrary, well known. And these are authoritative names.

[Filatov] I personally feel bitter about a reaction to the events that followed. Discussions should have been held before the decision was made. But opening a debate after the president signed the edict is, in my view, absolutely unacceptable. We breed desertions and people who refuse to carry out orders, cripple the troops' morale, and thus increase the number of bodies.

[Telen] But a democratic state is different from a totalitarian one in having an independent public opinion, among other things. In this particular case the authorities have encountered it. The Chechen war has caused a disarray not only in society, but also in the presidential entourage. Presidential Council member Emil Pain, for instance, has taken a critical stance. Can one say that the "team" has split?

[Filatov] I would not draw such a conclusion. Members of both the Presidential Council and Expert Analysis Council have always had independent judgments.

[Telen] Is the president going to convene the Presidential Council, something he was asked to in a letter by council members?

[Filatov] Not in the near future, as far as I know.

[Telen] It is said that the president was chagrined by recommendations of the Expert Analysis Council.

[Filatov] There were certain provisions with which he disagreed.

[Telen] Speculation has mounted that the power agencies in the presidential entourage are gaining greater clout. How influential are General Korzhakov's analysts in this regard?

[Filatov] I do not know anything about such an analytical service. Gen. Korzhakov's structure is outside the presidential administration.

Chechen Prosecutor: 90% Oppose Dudayev

MM0702160495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 95 First Edition p 2

[Report on interview with newly appointed Chechen Republic Prosecutor Bek Baskhanov by Vladimir Yanchenkov in Znamenskoye; date not given: "Let Law Rule—Fascism Has Prevailed in Chechnya, Chechen Republic Prosecutor Bek Baskhanov Believes. The Time Has Come To Establish Law and Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Znamenskoye Settlement, Chechen Republic—In the settlement of Znamenskoye, the temporary refuge of the Chechen Republic's new government, Republic Prosecutor Bek Baskhanov has a small office on the second floor. The walls are lined with book shelves holding a large number of books on jurisprudence, and by the window there is a Russian Federation state flag. The proprietor of this office is someone who has not had an easy time of it. In June 1993 when Dudayev's gunmen stormed the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] building, he lost a brother, a militia major. The very same day, another of his close relatives was shot. Baskhanov himself, from day one of Dudayev's accession to power, moved into opposition. He was forced to go into hiding. Three and a half years have passed since the day the man who is now the republic prosecutor was declared an outlaw.

"Dudayev's regime was criminal from the very start," Chechnya's new prosecutor believes. "Apologists for that regime assert that Dudayev was elected to the post of president by an overwhelming majority of votes from the electorate. This is nonsense. We have irrefutable evidence that Dudayev came to power by intimidating the population and fiddling the ballot results.

"On polling day, armed guards were posted in all inhabited localities, and they forcibly shoved people into the polling booths. Nevertheless, only around 20 percent of the electorate voted for Dudayev. Thus he was not elected, but, rather, he was appointed to the highest post in the republic through the efforts of his stooges.

"Since then, the people of Chechnya have not known what law is. For three years, tyranny, juridical anarchy, and outright fascism have reigned in the republic. The authorities cultivated genocide, particularly against Russians and Russian speakers, the republic economy was razed to the ground, and the national wealth was frittered away in the most brazen way.

"This is why the restoration of legality and law and order is the main task for the republic's new law enforcement bodies. But in order to carry it out, it is essential to restore a well-balanced system incorporating the Prosecutor's Office, the MVD, and the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service].

"The most important thing, of course, is cadres. The most experienced and honest legal experts, after trusting Dudayev at first, quickly realized what was happening and left their posts. Today, they are happy to cooperate with our government. In many of the regions liberated from illegal gangster formations, rayon prosecutors have already been appointed and set to work.

"Of course, we have many difficulties. And they are linked primarily with the fact that over the past three years a certain section of the population has grown unaccustomed to law and order and has ceased to be law-abiding. This is a negative phenomenon which has to be eradicated immediately.

"At the same time, the main bulk of the population correctly understands the situation which has emerged and the need to introduce federal troops. In any case, I can assure you that these people make up over 90 percent of Chechnya's population. Behind Dudayev stands a pitiful handful of traitors to the people's interests, people for whose evil deeds there can be no forgiveness, and also professionals from certain countries of the CIS and farther abroad.

"But nevertheless, we have to conduct painstaking publicity work. How? Prosecutor's Office staffers go directly to the families, they chat with the mullahs and elders, because it is they who have traditionally played a key role in the formation of public opinion in Chechnya. Personally, I have made frequent visits to Vedenskiy Rayon and met with the influential Mullah Amer. He wholly agreed with the evaluation of Dudayev's regime and the need to restore the rule of law. Moreover, he sent a letter to our government in which he speaks out in favor of full recognition of Russian Federation laws on Chechen soil. Similar decisions were taken by the mullahs in Naurskiy and Shalinskiy Rayons. Under the influence of these religious leaders, people express sharp opposition to the presence on their territories of pro-Dudayev illegal formations. But the fact is that the gangster formations leaving Groznyy are today concentrating mainly in these two rayons.

"In parallel with this work, in close cooperation with the republic MVD and FSC bodies, the republic Prosecutor's Office is compiling lists of those of Dudayev's supporters who have encouraged genocide, robbed the republic, murdered completely innocent people, and committed other serious crimes against their own people. They will have to answer according to the full severity of the law.

"I will touch upon another element which is very unpleasant for us all. In recent times, individual cases of unlawful actions in respect of the peaceful population by federal and internal troops of the Russian MVD have come to light. Every such case becomes a target of close scrutiny not only by the Chechen Prosecutor's Office. We have established local working contacts with Caucasus Regional Prosecutor Vitaliy Kalyukin as well as with Vasiliy Afanasyev, first deputy military prosecutor of the North Caucasus Military District. In the city of Groznyy, a military prosecutor's office is already up and running. Criminal proceedings are instigated against marauders without delay, and an investigation is carried out.

"I am deeply convinced that very soon legality, peace, and tranquillity will triumph on the long-suffering Chechen soil, and our people will set about what is most important—restoring the ravaged economy."

Deputy Speaker Says Criminal Gangs Supporting Chechens

BR0702153495 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian
7 Feb 95 p 15

[Interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy speaker of Russian Federation Council, by Federico Fabiani in Strasbourg, France; date not given: "Dudayev, That Megalomaniac"—first two paragraphs are IL GIORNALE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "He is not a bad guy. He is an ordinary man with a wife and children, a general born in a distant province where becoming a general is almost impossible. I recall that he once asked me to take power in Dagestan and, together with him, to make a bid to rule the world. Basically, he is just an example of the great danger to which minor peoples are exposed: the megalomania of their minor generals."

Ramazan Abdulatipov, with his black mustache drooping over a broad Caucasian face, knows General Dzhokhar Dudayev--president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Chechnya—well. A native of the neighboring mountainous Republic of Dagestan, former speaker of the Soviet Supreme Chamber of Nationalities in the USSR, deputy speaker of the current Federation Council (the Russian upper house), Abdulatipov has met Dudayev face to face on several occasions over the last few years. His attempts at mediation have always ended in a stalemate. "Dudayev used to agree to a deal only to renege on it, without fail, the day after." But now they are giving this old reservist sufficient prestige to head Moscow's upper house delegation to the Council of Europe. In the course of a far from easy week, Russia's admission to the Council of Europe—expected, until very recently, to take place in the spring—has been "put on ice" by the Strasbourg parliament until the cessation of hostilities in the northern Caucasus, at the very least.

[Fabiani] It is not easy for public opinion in the West to understand how President Yeltsin can conduct the military intervention contrary to the will of his own parliament. Do you think that the war could have been avoided?

[Abdulatipov] Yes, it could have been until the first week in December. But now I am by no means sure that we are still in time to turn back. Since 1991, when Dudayev announced that he was placing himself in the position of president of a foreign country, drawing his strength from the Russian Federation's armories, I had been asking Yeltsin to contact him to settle the issue. It was obvious that Chechnya's declaration of independence could turn into a tragedy for the whole of the Caucasus. But President Yeltsin and the government have had their minds on other matters over these three years. If they had complied with the efforts made by parliament, we should probably have been able to disarm Dudayev instead of giving the Russian Army a free hand in an amateurish attack conducted in the utmost ignorance of the situation.

[Fabiani] And yet the very opposition deputies in Moscow seem at times to be working on a subtle distinction: war on Dudayev's regime or war on the Chechen people? Is there really a difference?

[Abdulatipov] Over the first few days, the media worldwide threw a false light on the Russian Army's intervention: The goal was not to crush Dudayev but to separate the two sides after three years of civil war between the pro-Russian opposition and the general's secessionists, who were supported by the local mafias and were determined to exploit Chechnya's oil resources. The problem was political, not ethnic: Dudayev had suffocated democracy in Groznyy at birth. Sure, the situation has changed now. The army's brutality has ended up by pushing even those who had fought against him until yesterday onto Dudayev's side. The whole Chechen people is now up in arms, to defend not a regime but its own honor and its own independence.

[Fabiani] Is it just the Chechens who are up in arms, or has the war already spread to the whole of the northern Caucasus, as many have been fearing?

[Abdulatipov] The peoples of the Caucasus have been calling on Moscow to get rid of the general's regime since 1991, but instead of containing the fighting, everything has been done to internationalize it and to make Dudayev popular in the area. According to my information, a number of criminal gangs from neighboring Ingushetia (to the east) and from Dagestan are already actively supporting the Chechen resistance.

[Fabiani] Is a peaceful solution still possible?

[Abdulatipov] All wars end in peace, but we have a saying in the Caucasus: In our country you fire only once, but the shot lasts 100 years.

Shakhray Questions Yushenkov Data on Chechen Casualties

LD0602143195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 6 (INTERFAX)—Sergey Shakhray, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister, regards as untrustworthy information from Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee, who has estimated casualties since the start of the Chechen crisis at 20,000.

In an interview with Interfax Monday, Shakhrai dismissed the figure as "another example of how statistics serve a politician." Shakhrai explained that as a statesman he ought to trust official data, submitted by ministries and departments, and according to them, he noted, about 600 servicemen had died and yet another 200 had been listed missing.

He disclosed that Nikolay Semenov, Russia's governor-general in Chechnya, "had been instructed to arrange work on taking civilian casualties into account."

Commenting on recent statements by Ingushetia's leaders, who disputed the Deputy Prime Minister's claim that Dudayev might be in Ingushetia, Shakhray noted that the Chechen general "is a cautious man", and for this reason, he (Shakhray) had told journalists last week that he "does not rule out" the possibility of Dudayev's presence in Ingushetia. In saying that, Shakhray referred to data cited in intercepted conversations between Dudayev's aides.

In addition to that, as Shakhray stressed, "none of the Chechen leaders today, except Dudayev, recognize Ingushetia as an independent republic, and all come out for a single Vainakh republic." So, Shakhray noted, "obviously, their political interests (of Aushev and Dudayev—IF) coincide at this stage."

Shakhray believes that a breakthrough in Chechnya depends on the position of the population of Chechnya rather than on the capture of Groznyy or other communities. "As long as Dudayev, against whom a criminal case has been started, exists, as long as the federal power structures, as they allege, do not know where he is, the population of Chechnya will be in a wait-and-see position," Shakhray stressed.

Interior Minister Yerin Arrives in Chechnya

LD0702150395 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin arrived in Chechnya today to study the situation on the spot.

Deputy Comments

LD0702173295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Gorelova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin left on Tuesday [7 February] for the Chechen Republic, Yuriy Kalatanov, deputy head of Yerin's staff, told TASS today.

According to a decision by the Russian Security Council of January 25, the Army's mission is effectively over in Chechnya while the interior troops remain in control. Deputy Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov was appointed chief coordinator of the Chechen campaign.

A spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry told TASS today that on the Chechen territories controlled by federal forces, Army units are being gradually replaced by interior troops. It is planned that in the near future all Army forces will be withdrawn from Chechnya with the exception of units of the North Caucasian Military District, he added.

Forty Transbaykal Conscripts Sent to Chechnya Desert

LD0702174595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Subbotin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ulan-Ude, 7 Feb—Some 40 soldiers on national service, in units of the Transbaykal Military District, sent to or currently being prepared for dispatch to Chechnya, have left their subunits without leave of absence. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this today at Buryatia's Military Commissioner's Office.

However, as was stressed by Aleksandr Kruglov, deputy military commissioner of the republic, so far criminal proceedings have not been taken with regard to these cases. Explanatory work is being conducted with the parents, and until all the circumstances have been cleared up the soldiers are being assigned to serve in other units. Sons of single mothers and soldiers of other categories who for one reason or another are not to be sent to hot spots are being excluded from companies with "marching orders."

At the same time, Buryatia's Committee of Soldiers' Mothers thinks that in military procuracies no clear guidelines are given regarding the future fate of servicemen leaving their units without leave. Committee Chairman Lidiya Boguslavskaya pointed out that the request to return to unit cannot be regarded as a positive solution for parents. From tomorrow, Buryatia's Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, she said, is going to picket the residence of the president and parliament of Buryatia.

Military Source: Groznyy Resistance 'in Decline'

LD0702143795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia), Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—The illegal armed groups' resistance is in decline in Grozny, after federal troops established control over strategic facilities in the center of the city, an informed military source in Mozdok told Interfax on Tuesday [7 February].

He said that the federal troops continued to clear city districts of militants on February 7.

He also announced that Dudayev's supporters "have been pressed out to the southern and eastern districts of Grozny, where one-storey private houses are located." He expressed the opinion that the Russian Interior Ministry troops would perform mopping-up operations in these districts.

Federal troops continue to control the routes of militants' retreat from Grozny in the south-western direction. The Russian units also control the southern and south-eastern limits of the city, said the source.

Troops Continue Shelling Groznyy's Outer Districts

LD0702192895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 Feb—All throughout today explosions of heavy shells could be heard in Groznyy. Federal troops continued shelling districts where, according to their information, there are concentrations of fighters.

According to the claim of representatives of the "Chechnya Defense Staff," with which the ITAR-TASS correspondent spoke in Groznyy, federal forces are evidently striking from two directions—from northwest and northeast of Groznyy—to get at the rear of the fighters and close the encirclement round the city. Heavy fighting is taking place near the settlement of Chechen-Aul, which is about 10 kilometers southeast of Groznyy. There the encirclement of the Chechen capital has not yet been closed.

Chechens Claim Blockade of Groznyy Incomplete

LD0702202995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1914 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy February 7 TASS—Representatives from Dzhokhar Dudayev's headquarters said on Tuesday [7 February] that the ring of federal troops has not closed around the Chechen capital so far.

Heavy fightings continue near the village of Chechen-Aul, 10 kilometres (7 miles) south of Groznyy, where at least one gap remains in the closing ring, they told ITAR-TASS in Groznyy on Tuesday.

According to the source, federal troops continued shelling suspected positions of separatists within the city quarters on Tuesday, while their columns advancing north-west and north-east of Groznyy, tried to seal off the Chechen capital.

Say Groznyy Battle Continues

LD0802113895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1037 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Feb 8 (Interfax)—Position warfare continued in Groznyy in the morning of February 8, Chechen military sources told Interfax.

They allege that Minutka Square, the Oktyabrsky district and the village of Chernorechye on the south-western city limits are still controlled by the Dudayev formations, and have been shelled since morning from heavy artillery pieces and Grad launchers. There are no reports about the loss of life.

Meanwhile, the Russian authorities stated a few days ago that the federal troops had established control over Minutka Square.

Chechen sources also announced that the villages of Chechen-Aul and Shali south of Groznyy are being heavily shelled. The village of Chechen-Aul has been virtually destroyed.

Our correspondent reports that the Chechen military leaders have not denied the information that the Dudayev fighters are planning to retreat from Groznyy to the southern regions of the republic.

Dudayev Aide Says Groznyy Not Blocked By Russian Forces

LD0802111795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1108 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Feb 8 (INTERFAX)—On Tuesday [7 February], as before, the river of Sundzha was the major confrontation line between the federation forces and Chechen formations in Groznyy, employee of the presidential press service Zelimkhan Dachayev declared in an interview with Interfax on Wednesday night. He said that during the last few days the strategically important "Baronovskiy bridge via Sundzha changes hands several times a day."

Referring to the latest information he reported that until now the Chechen capital is not blocked by the Russian forces, in particular, along with country roads several roads leading to the south-west and south-east are "practically free."

Dachayev declared that formations loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev still possess "a substantial amount" of heavy military equipment, in particular, tanks, "which are dispersed by groups made up of 2-3 tanks in the populated centers surrounding Groznyy."

According to Dachayev, Dudayev's home guards have captured 72 units of Russian armored vehicles over the first two weeks of this operation waged by the federal forces.

Dachayev said that "as before the Chechen government headed by Dzhokhar Dudayev is ready for negotiations with the Russian leadership at a corresponding level." However, he said that if such negotiations do not start then "a partisan war in the North Caucasus will be inevitable."

North Ossetian President Supports State of Emergency

LD0702213795 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Report by Vlada Vishnevskaya; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] All day today the Federation Council was devoted to two issues: debating candidates for the post of Constitutional Court judge and examining the presidential decree on the state of emergency in part of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia] The state of emergency regime must not be lifted entirely because the situation has been aggravated by the events that are today taking place in Chechnya. It is high time to think about introducing a state of emergency in Chechnya, too, in order to protect those civilians who are still there.

[I. Kostoyev, chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Constitutional Legislation] The provisional administration should concentrate all its efforts on ensuring a return of refugees, giving them assistance in restoring houses and farms that have been destroyed, and providing work for them. Instead, every two months we are getting for approval edicts which absolutely repeat one another and are not fulfilled locally. As a result, citizens' constitutional rights and liberties have been infringed upon for over two years. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Borovoy Calls for Independent Chechen State

LD0702200195 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Konstantin Borovoy who has just returned from Chechnya, was today telling journalists of his impressions about this journey.

[Correspondent D. Kochetkov] We have already lost the Chechen war, the leader of the Economic Freedom Party stated. According to Borovoy, the Russian army is completely demoralized.

[Borovoy, speaking at a news conference] The problem that worries them is who to blame for the dead bodies. This is how it was, rather cynically, put to me in a private conversation. And one of these generals said: If Yeltsin tries to blame the dead bodies on us, we will blame these bodies on him. All we need is to simply turn around and things in Russia will be done our way.

[Kochetkov] Konstantin Borovoy told journalists about his meeting with Dzhokhar Dudayev near Groznyy. Far from hiding away in a bunker, Dudayev is moving about freely. According to Borovoy, Dudayev does not believe in his imminent detention by the Russian special services, and calls the Federal Counterintelligence Service "a plywood-and-matches factory." The general is calm, in control of the situation, and even writes poetry. In a conversation with Borovoy, Dudayev said that he is against terrorism and is ready for negotiations. A statement by the Economic Freedom Party was circulated at the news conference.

[Borovoy] We call upon the world community to recognize the Chechen Republic as an independent state. And this will save Russia.

[Kochetkov] The party experts estimate that 12,000 Russian soldiers have died in Chechnya.

Yavlinskiy Condemns Yeltsin's Chechnya Policy

BR0802133195 Paris LES ECHOS in French 8 Feb 95 p 4

[Interview with Russia's Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of Yabloko Bloc party, by Martine Roye in Davos; date not given: "Grigoriy Yavlinskiy: The War in Chechnya is the Result of the Failure of the Economic Reforms"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Roye] What might be the consequences of the war in Chechnya on the economy and on relations between Moscow and the regions?

[Yavlinskiy] This is a costly business in many ways, in terms of inflation and political instability. First, the disintegration of Russia and the collapse of the Army will accelerate. The regions are afraid of Moscow now. We must create a Russian federation, but not in this way. The war in Chechnya is a political failure.

[Roye] Should an independent Chechnya be accepted then?

[Yavlinskiy] Not necessarily. If you start by giving Chechnya its independence, other regions will follow. We must negotiate. I am opposed to war, and especially to a war in the Caucasus. The Russians fought there for 50 years last century and never won... Yeltsin was ill-advised because he has surrounded himself with the wrong people, especially General Grachev. His entourage has no democratic principles. This is a real national tragedy. However, Russia is not yet a democratic country: There is no civil society and no ties between the population and the world of politics.

[Roye] What are the consequences for economic reforms, especially now that the conservatives are back in control?

[Yavlinskiy] Chechnya is one of the effects of the failure of the economic reforms. The government needed a military victory. The reforms are not real reforms. Stopping the gaps in the Russian budget using foreign loans... I am not really sure that that is a solution. However, if the IMF thinks it is a good thing then we can negotiate. The current budget is wholly unrealistic. We still have the same rate of inflation and are still developing in the same chaotic way. We need to invest, create a real system for tax collection and then be capable of recovering the taxes we levy, spend less money on bureaucrats and political leaders and above all create wealth—and I mean real money.

Lipetsk FCS Directorate on Foreign Intelligence Activity

MM0802140995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 95 p 1

[Report from the "Inform" column: "Lipetsk Counterintelligence Officers' Report"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign intelligence agents are not neglecting Lipetsk Oblast. This was said at a news conference held by V. Varakin, head of the local Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] Directorate. As became clear, certain visitors have, in the guise of sending out questionnaires or setting up partnership links, tried to recruit Lipetsk citizens of interest to Western intelligence. Fortunately, to no avail. Fate has also sent here professional spies interested in defense issues. But one American firm which tried to deliver to Yelets railcars stuffed with tracking devices was the most drastic of all. The devices would have enabled the interested parties to track the movement of trains and gather information via satellite.

Moreover, the Lipetsk FCS Directorate has foiled a number of unlawful operations by several joint ventures on oblast territory.

Chechen War Expected To Spread To Dagestan

MM0802141595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Aleksey Chelnokov: "Territory of Dagestan Could Be New Bridgehead for War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Novolakskoye, Khasavyurt, Moscow—The headquarters of the Chechen-Akin national movement refugee center is housed in a small brick building on the northern outskirts of Khasavyurt. On the wall there is a sheet of paper which has already turned yellow with age: It is an order signed by S. Raduyev, Dudayev's representative in the "Eastern Defense Zone."

Paragraph one reads: "Form armed resistance detachments against the Russian forces of occupation immediately throughout the territory of Dagestan and merge them with the structure of the Eastern Defense Zone of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria."

It continues: "...begin combat actions immediately against the Russian troops on the territory of Dagestan. Brother Dagestanis, kill or take prisoner at least one Russian soldier a day."

"Arise Dagestan, arise to the jihad!" the leaflet urges.

The "order" has been pinned up on the wall for so long that the men who have been clustering around it for days have clearly lost interest in it. They even allowed it to be taken down from the wall. "Take it, take it," they told me, "there are more like that in the headquarters." And by all accounts they found nothing criminal in the text. Admittedly, no one was able (or willing?) to answer the question of who "S. Raduyev, the representative of the commander in chief and main headquarters of the armed forces of the Chechen Republic of Ishkeria in the Eastern Defense Zone" is and where his general headquarters are.

Perhaps this paper is a forgery?

"No, there is a Raduyev who is Dudayev's representative in Dagestan," Abu Movsayev, another representative of the Chechen general, claimed although in his case he represents Dudayev at the Moscow talks on the exchange of prisoners of war. Then he fell silent: He categorically refused to let anyone into the secret of the "Eastern Defense Zone"...

As I toured Chechnya and the adjoining regions of Dagestan I saw for myself that even the militia have begun to realize the danger of an explosion of the war in Dagestan.

In the forward positions at Argun the fighters told me: "Have you heard, did they bomb Khasavyurt yesterday?" "There has been nothing like that," I replied, "I came from there a few hours ago." They did not believe me and made skeptical noises. Many people here are sure that if war has not started in Dagestan yet it is inevitable.

The Dudayev forces' aukhovskiy [as transliterated] battalion includes people who have come from Dagestan—Chechen Akins, Avars, and Dargins. After fighting for a week or two they will return home and soon take up arms again.

Sultan Arzamulov, a Dudayev fighter, lives in Babayurtovskiy Rayon, to the north of Khasavyurt.

"If they take Chechnya," he said, "they will grind Dagestan and the other Caucasian republics into the mud."

He is logical in what he says: "The war in Dagestan is not being waged openly at the moment simply because our bases are there." [sentence as published]

Recently a Russian ground-attack plane dropped bombs near the village of Khammat-Yurt approximately 5 km from the Chechen border. Two deep craters and a few dead sheep sparked off talk: Was this due to pilot error or was it the start of war in Dagestan? Many inhabitants of the republic are convinced that it is the latter.

It is no secret to anyone that villages adjoining Chechnya are stuffed full of weapons despite the fact that for six weeks now the Dagestani militia have imposed a special entry and exit procedure on the border.

At the operational headquarters of the Republic of Dagestan Interior Ministry I was shown a list of weapons confiscated between 11 December and 24 January. It comprises eight Kalashnikov automatic rifles, nine pistols, one machine gun, and 27 grenades. And to judge from the logbook, this process is slowing down so the militiamen are having to write the same figures day after day.

The main obstacle to the illegal transport of weapons is on the Rostov to Baku route near the village of Gerzel. One kilometer before the checkpoint the wretched line of vehicles stands waiting to be inspected. Almost an hour later the documents have been checked, the vehicle trunks examined, and the vehicles are waved through. Ahead lies Chechnya.

After the destruction of the bridge across the River Aksay traffic was sent over the river via the lock-gate. Our Zhiguli left the road and sank into the mud which had been churned up by thousands of wheels. Again there was a long line of cars and trucks. Somewhere in the distance a tractor was straining its engine trying to drag a vehicle out of the quagmire.

Our driver, a local man, shrugged in despair and turned around to us: "We will take a detour." We went back a couple of kilometers, left the road, and drove past one village, then another. To the right was the railroad which has not been used by trains for a long while.

At a bend in the road I noticed a van and two militiamen. They did not hold us up. "These lads only stop trucks," our driver said. "This is a good spot."

Indeed, we approached the lock gate from the other side without problems. Only the Chechen fighters on the other bank of the Aksay asked me as a journalist to "register." The border is truly transparent!

Colonel Aleksandr Korolev, a representative of the Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], has been in Khasavyurt almost a month now. He is in charge of equipping a post in zone five—that section of the Chechen-Dagestani border which runs through Khasavyurtovskiy Rayon.

"Judging by the number of refugees and the mood of the local population," he said cautiously, "the war could well spread to Dagestan. But we cannot seal off all the roads completely—that is impossible."

We went together to a border post in the mountains in Novolakskiy Rayon. The small plateau near Chapayevo, a village in Dagestan inhabited by Chechens, is divided by a cemetery and a defensive installation. There are trenches deep enough for people to stand in, and a sniper's rifle sight glinted behind the parapet. The turret of an armored personnel carrier loomed above the horizon. A tractor was hauling huge concrete blocks. It seems that the OMON are making serious preparations for a long stay.

"Beyond that hill," Lev Shubin, the commander of the Kirovskiy OMON, said, pointing, "is the Chechen village of Zandak. The sniper constantly has his sights trained on it. The distance is 1100 meters. He has been ordered to fire for effect when a border violator comes within 800 meters of our position."

Day and night an OMON reconnaissance group roams the mountains watching over adjoining territories and filming if Chechen gunmen appear on the other side.

In Novolakskiy Rayon there are around 4,000 Chechen inhabitants. The post was recently fired on from Chapayevo.

"You see," Shubin said, "the position is in the shape of a circle: You never know which direction they will strike from—from the Chechen side or from the rear...."

At the Chechen headquarters where I discovered the "order" there were lots of people: Refugees are fed there and receive medical examinations. They are registered here and allocated to accommodations.

"There are 26 refugees living in my house in Khasavyurt," Ibragim Irbaykhanov, deputy chief of the headquarters, told me.

None of them has been registered. Why?

"There are rumors," Irbaykhanov went on, "that refugees are going to be deported; it is said that the order has been given. So people would rather live illegally in Dagestan."

According to the official statistics around 40,000 refugees have arrived in Khasavyurt since the beginning of the military actions in Chechnya. At the headquarters, however, the view is that the real refugee figure is two to three times higher than the official figure. Around 100,000 Chechens used to live in Dagestan. "We are expecting punitive actions here soon," local inhabitants told me.

I witnessed an interesting scene at Makhachkala airport. A young soldier from the internal forces—just a kid—told people not to park their cars near the entrance to the airport terminal. The luggage-laden passengers cursed.

"It is no use bossing people about here, that is how we disgraced ourselves in the eyes of the whole world," an elderly woman said, her voice standing out amid the general clamor.

The lad with the automatic rifle explained: I am just obeying orders, lady....

Three Russian Officers Exchanged for 44 Bodies

LD0802102295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0944 GMT 8 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Groznyy, 8 Feb—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has witnessed an exchange of three Russian officers for the bodies of 44 militants and civilians. [passage omitted]

According to Musa Muradov, who organized the identification of the bodies, the Russian side is to hand over 36 more bodies today, as has been agreed. ITAR-TASS managed to talk on Tuesday to representatives of Dudayev's headquarters and a deputy of the Chechen parliament Matey Tsiyekhesashvili who said that the Chechen side is still willing to stop all military actions and begin talks with Russian leaders. He said that Dudayev was in Groznyy.

Babichev Safe, Not Captured By Chechens

LD0802105095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 8 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—General Ivan Babichev, who was rumoured to be taken prisoner by Chechen militants, is safe and sound and reported to the main headquarters of the Russian airborne troops on Wednesday about the situation in Chechnya, a spokesman of the Russian Defence Ministry told TASS.

Babichev, who commands the Pskov airborne division, said in the report that his units had fulfilled their tasks and were getting ready to withdraw from Chechnya. Their positions will be occupied by interior troops who will patrol Groznyy streets and fight the remaining Chechen militants, the spokesman said.

Government Regrets 'Rumors' of Babichev's Capture

LD0802154395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—According to reports received by ITAR-TASS from the Mobile Information Center of the Press Service of the Government of the Russian Federation, "after the recent liquidation of the main Groznyy group of illegal armed formations in the area of 'Minutka' Square, the federal forces, giving assistance to the internal forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, began to comb urban areas of the western and south-eastern parts of Groznyy, for the purpose of liquidating small but fairly numerous bandit gangs. In the course of the day the western group of federal troops, under the command of Maj-Gen Babichev, moved in a westerly direction for a distance of two kilometers within the territory of Groznyy.

In the course of this operation, only small, separate groups of fighters were discovered, some of which were destroyed, and some pushed into the area of the settlement of Chernorechye.

The south-eastern group of federal forces under the command of Lt-Gen Popov on the western limits of the city of Argun discovered and destroyed a howitzer with battle kit and 15 fighters.

According to the information of the Command of Federal Forces, in the past 24 hours a total of more than 50 fighters, one infantry combat vehicle, one armored carrier, one howitzer, two mortars and four cars were destroyed and a large quantity of firearms and ammunition was captured.

Of late, some Western mass news media have been insistently spreading rumors of the alleged capture of Maj-Gen Babichev and Gantemirov, deputy head of the Territorial Administration of Federal Bodies of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic, by Dudayev's fighters.

It is regretted that a number of respected foreign companies lightly use rumors advantageous to someone, instead of applying for information to the Mobile Information Center of the Russian Federation Government Press Service in Mozdok or the Russian Federation Government Press Service Bureau of Operational Information in Moscow.

According to a Ministry of Defense report, the last telephone conversation with the allegedly captured Gen Babichev took place at 1100 hours today.

Krasnodar Court Blasts Local 'Zhirinovskiy'

954F1156A Krasnodar KUBANSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 14 Jan 95 p 2

[Article under the heading "At the Crossroads": "'Little Zhirinovskiy' With Big Complaints, Or Igor Volfovich Is Angry at the Court"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The political election battles of recent times have shown vividly that the number of energetic people here in the kray for one deputy's seat exceeds rational expectations. Lev Gumilev said of such people that they are "long on willpower." They have a tremendous desire to make their way to power. And this can only be done if you gain popularity among the electorate. How to do this? There is one officially tried and tested way: exposing everyone, making complaints about everyone, and clambering onto the pedestal of a fighter for justice, and, lo and behold, he cuts his way through.

A striking model of an indefatigable exposer is Igor Pavlovich Kolomiytsev, citizen of the Russian Federation and editor of the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER, who frequently hides behind the pseudonym Yegor Pavlov.

In life like a little Zhirinovskiy, as he described himself in the newspaper KRASNODARSKIYE IZVESTIYA, Igor Pavlovich set forth his vision of problems in the interview in quite eye-catching fashion, duly underlined for emphasis, and successfully satisfied the ordinary citizens with exposures without specific addresses.

This is what he says in the interview "Perhaps in Life I Am a Little Zhirinovskiy" in the newspaper KRASNODARSKIYE IZVESTIYA of 23 November of last year: "I have documents exposing many officials not only in the kray but in Moscow also" and, further: "We will soon be able to count on the fingers of one hand the judges who do not take bribes!" And one further quotation that is very typical of the little Kuban Volfovich! "It was you, then, 'a la Zhirinovskiy,' who shouted at a roundtable that if you come to power, you will give the judges 24 hours to get out of town or to shoot themselves?" Kolomiytsev's response: "Yes, because there are few honest people left among them."

Let us see about the interviewee's complaint about the shortage of honest people. He puts himself in the latter category, of course. We make so bold as to express our thoughts in this connection. An honest citizen is required to assist an investigation and justice in the ascertainment of the truth and the punishment of a crime. This is the constitutional duty and civic obligation of each person. For failure to comply with this obligation a citizen may be punished in accordance with Article 190 of the Criminal Code. Citizen Kolomiytsev, however, incensed at the disorder in the country, is holding on to very important documents and knows of judges taking bribes, but is failing to perform his civic duty. He is, however, earnestly demanding this of others and even knows how order should begin. According to Kolomiytsev, it, order, that is, should begin with the janitor. Not with each's performance of his duty and compliance with current legislation but with the janitor. But let it, I. Kolomiytsev's municipal and everyday reasoning, be.

So let us sum up the preliminary results: Little Zhirinovskiy is in violation of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and has failed to perform his civic duty. Can he after this lay claim to the title of honest person and upright, law- abiding citizen of the republic?

Now let us take a look at his statements in the newspaper from the other side. Let us assume that the accusations leveled at the court were made in a fit of temper and an outburst of the election struggle. But the material was published on 23 November, the elections were held on 20 November. If Kolomiytsev said all this for the sake of a witticism, not having to hand a single fact, his actions then qualify under Article 130 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation as slander (for slander in the press, incidentally, the punishment is more severe than for verbal slander). This is the sort of fragrant bouquet of offenses that little Zhirinovskiy holds.

But even this is not all. In the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER for 28 December of last year the one who reckons himself in life to be a Volfovich publishes the material "Volobuyev, Here You Are... a Sword!" signed by Yegor Pavlov.

Let us turn to the heart of the matter. It is essentially that Yegor Pavlov, that same little Zhirinovskiy, that same Igor Kolomiytsev, that same person concealing from justice important documents and the names of bribetakers, is unhappy with the ruling of Justice I.G. Kornelyeva, who had considered a suit brought by S. Dementyev, who had run in the elections for the Legislative Assembly, concerning violations in the course of the elections in Krasnodarskiy Electoral District No. 1. "Were there violations at the time of the elections?" Yegor Pavlov passionately exclaims and hereupon answers: "Oh, yes!" (the text simply cries out for a "monsieur" or "madame" here. As much as to handsomely say: "Oh, yes, madame!" Particularly in the provinces). Then follows the extenuation: "In the city of Krasnodar they were held relatively honestly." Relative to what? Relative to the Election Act, relative to I. Kolomiytsev or the three pine trees in which he had lost his way? First the author testifies to violations, a little further on he maintains that "Dementyev had no proof testifying to falsification in confirmation of the suit."

Holding nothing but his own ego, Yegor Pavlov rendered his verdict: "For a joke, obviously, Justice Kornelyeva removed a nail from the foundations of the edifice of the kray authorities, which is now threatening to collapse, burying all beneath the rubble," having preliminarily demonstrated his knowledge of the English children's poem in S. Marshak's translation about a shortage of nails in the realm.

What does Deputy Kolomiytsev actually want, what is he unhappy about? The leitmotiv of his correspondence is as follows: Oh, yes! There were violations, but the justice has no grounds for setting aside the results of the elections. The author's logic is staggering: Fraud there was, but there is no fraud. It would be simply sinful not to remind you, Igor Volfovich, of Pancras' words from Moliere's comedy "Le Medecin Malgre Lui:" "Its major premise (logical) is absurd, its minor premise, meaningless, and the conclusion, ridiculous." It is highly reminiscent of pluralism in one mind individually. Yegor Pavlov is distressed here "that what is most important, perhaps, is that suits will immediately be brought in all the other districts of the kray—after all, there are the same grounds for cancellation in each district." And, consequently, citizen of the republic I.P. Kolomiytsev would lose his deputy's mandate. It is not known whether at the subsequent elections he would obtain his negligible percentage in order to be elected. It is possible to close one's eyes to the manifest violations in the conduct of the elections for the sake of one's mandate and seat in the Assembly. The justice did not close her eyes, consequently, she is guilty of having complied with the law and of having upheld justice.

The latter-day politician I. Kolomiytsev treats the legislative field like his truck garden: Here I think I'll sow parsley, here, I'll plant potatoes. In other words, the lord and master. Now he accuses a justice of the Krasnoarmeyskiy Court of having taken bribes, without having any proof, now he evaluates the justices on his fingers, sorting them into honest and dishonest, now he organizes a "dressing-down" for the fact that a ruling which is not to the liking of the little Zhirinovskiy has been adopted. Impudent treatment of all with whom he is unhappy. You can imagine how he would behave were he to acquire power.

From "Who's Who." I. Kolomiytsev. Main areas of activity: "Struggle for power. Accession to power." Hobbies: "I read books, train my dog."

Let us call readers' attention to one further thought expressed by the little Zhirinovskiy in the interview with KRASNODARSKIYE IZVESTIYA: "We have here the enrichment of some businessmen close to the administrative machinery and the destruction and suppression of others, who are being suffocated from all sides." Igor Pavlovich is 100 percent right, only it would be no bad thing were he to try this maxim on himself for size. At the helm of power in the kray in August 1991 was V. Dyakonov, who gave the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER the entire building of the Leninskiy Rayon CPSU Committee. For what services? For political proximity to the leader! True, Dyakonov and Kolomiytsev subsequently went different ways in their views. But when they were together, Igor Pavlovich Kolomiytsev actively exposed in KUBANSKIYE IZVESTIYA his former rayon party committee political adversaries, descending to such prodigious depths as a textual analysis of the pieces of paper in the trash basket of the rayon party committee bathroom. The first stage of the formation of the editor of the big newspaper was based on bathroom prose and the exposures of the communists and tales of the horrors perpetrated under them. Now, in the calling of "little Zhirinovskiy," he is instructing justices how they should execute the laws and what is meant by honor and justice. Without the least embarrassment here, he is now expelling newspapers from a building acquired thanks to administrative proximity—the children's SOLNYSHKO and the invalids' RASSVET. Are you not ashamed, Igor Volfovich?

In conclusion, knowing your passion for quotation, we shall permit ourselves to close with a reference to a classic. A suitable children's verse was not, unfortunately, to hand, but there is M.Ye. Saltykov-Shchedrin with his "Journalist" from "The Little Things of Life."

"The content (of exultant journalists) is composed of joyful defamation and all kinds of buffoonery (for which well-intentioned fury is sometimes a substitute, come to that). Whence does he (the exultant journalist) appear in the arena of public activity? Is he a Taganrog Greek, who has done a brisk trade in halva and sponges, a Berdichev Jew, a former police spy, or simply the ward of a foundling hospital? How did he acquire a taste for letters?... Before his present exaltation, he would write some little lampoons, devise little questions, and, generally, busy himself with trifling newspaper work."

As far as the kray's judicial corps is concerned, it will, as before, administer justice in accordance with current legislation, bringing order to bear in the kray, however difficult this might be, undoubtedly purging its ranks of the justices who compromise the judicial calling.

The lawyers of old used to say: "Dura lex, sed lex" (the law is harsh, but it is the law). And, in addition, our quite sensible forefathers would say that any copy, even the very best, is always worse than the original. Zhirinovskiy's suit is much too big for you, Yegor Pavlov, look in your closet, therefore, for something better suited to your figure and level of learning.

[Signed] The Justice Division, the kray court, the kray Council of Justices, the Qualifications College of Justices of the kray.

Adygea Warned To Avoid Chechen Example

954F1159A Krasnodar KUBANSKIY KURYER in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 2

[Article by G. Molokanov, president of the Krasnodar People's Academy: "What Is Happening in Adygea? The Seduction of Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The kray's mass media organs reassure us: It is no big deal, on 11 December a national congress of Adygeys took place, at which the inviolability of their friendship with the Slavs was demonstrated yet again. And the ataman of the All-Kuban Cossack Horde, V.P. Gromov, testifies to the same thing, and the Krasnodar Adygey community [obshchina] confirms this.*

But we just received the latest materials from Maykop, from the leader of the Union of Slavs of Adygea, from first hand. They eloquently show and irrefutably testify: Everything that has taken place in Chechnya, as in a bad dream, right down the line, is developing in Adygea.

The difference is only in the fact that in Chechnya there are more Chechens and Ingush, and the process of "sovereignization" went more rapidly. In Adygea, the Slavic population reaches almost 80 percent, and here the process is proceeding more slowly.

A Little History

Let us recall the basic landmarks of this process. Full of enthusiasm and whipped up by Moscow's "democratic" directives on the sovereignization of the autonomous entities ("Take as much power as you can take"), the Adygey minority, led by that same party nomenklatura, came up with the stupendous "Constitution of the Adygey Republic," according to which Adygea is proclaimed an independent state, with its own army, with the right to conclude international treaties, and with its own president (without fail an Adygey), and a bunch of ministers.

And although the draft Constitution was subjected to well-founded criticism on the part of the legal structures of central Russian power, and although a number of Slavic forums took place in Adygea, resolutely condemning this draft, it was adopted almost without changes. Still in the first reading.

The final adoption of the new Constitution by the legislative organs of Adygea is planned for January 1995. And the demands of the Union of Slavs of Adygea, which represents the absolute majority of the population of the republic, on the adoption of the Constitution only after a national referendum, is being ignored by the local authorities.

"Just" Injustice

Why are the legislative organs of Adygea deflecting all amendments, disregarding the will of the Slavic population?

The fact is that, inspired (like Dudayev, in his time) by the support of the leaders of the Russian Federation, the leaders of Adygea were able in the turmoil to pass a "fair" law on equal representation of Adygeys and Slavs in the local parliament, according to which 20 percent of the population of Adygea should mandatorily have 50 percent of the seats in the legislative organs of power.

And in addition, the president of Adygea, A. Dzharimov, decreed that any change to the constitution devised by him and his team be passed by no fewer than three-quarters of the deputy votes. So one need have no doubt—the Slavic demands will not be passed, and the truly senseless constitution will be adopted by the Adygey parliament.

Because this basic law, if one can call it that, reflects the interests of a tiny minority of the population of Adygea and contains within itself the embryo of all those events that happened in Chechnya.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union was preceded by the famous cases of criminal echelons of power in the national republics (the Uzbek case, the Moldavian case, and others). By the moment of the disintegration of the USSR, this power had degenerated into essentially a criminal national bourgeoisie of the outlying districts, which were finding dependence on the center to be very burdensome.

Just such a criminal bourgeoisie, appropriating to itself the principal wealth of the republic, formed in Chechnya. It put Dudayev forward, armed his fighters, and hired ideologists, who through the mass media instilled in the Chechens the idea of their exclusivity, and of their necessary independence from "the Russian occupiers."

It is along this road that Adygea is developing. As the leaders of the Union of Slavs of Adygea testify, today 0.6 percent of the population already owns 25 percent of the property.

A class of major property-holders has already formed, which has as a result of privatization appropriated the majority of the national wealth, which was created by the labor of all the people.

These property owners absolutely do not want to hear about Moscow's authority or the authority of the entire people of Adygea. They have suddenly recalled national affronts and the 19th century Caucasus war, and are by every possible means stirring up national interests, pushing the working Adygey population and the working Slavic population against each other, according to the principle of "divide and conquer."

It is not difficult to predict what we will get from the policies of Adygea's present leaders. An unjust constitution will be adopted in defiance of the will of the great bulk of the Adygean peoples, setting the Adygey people against the Slavic. In order to consolidate their flimsy power, the Adygey bourgeois-ized elite, like the Chechen, will appeal to the Adygey diaspora, creating conditions for its repatriation at the expense of the Slavic population.

And if things get to the point, as in Chechnya, of armed opposition, it will remember about the Muslim faith and will turn for armed help to the countries of the Muslim world. And in the final analysis, Maykop will be transformed into the same thing that the city of Groznyy—which was built by Russians for the Chechen people (an ancient Russian fortress)—has been transformed into.

Let Well Enough Alone

Of course, one's pride is tickled by the plan to unite with Abkhazia in a "Greater Free Adygea," to have one's own representation in the European countries, to pose before the cameras of world television companies at the same table with the presidents of France and the United States. That tempts the ambition and arouses sweet dreams. Something similar motivated the Soviet Communist general Dudayev as well, when he was bringing about that which today President Dzharimov is trying to bring about.

And however the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus might condemn the Russian generals and the Moscow authorities for "armed aggression in Chechnya," the guilt of the ambitious, nearby Dudayev for the fact that Chechnya has been turned into ruins is incontestable, and the Chechen people, for as long as they exist, will never forgive him for this.

We appeal to the reason of President Dzharimov and his team: It is not necessary to draw conclusions from our own mistakes; it is enough to draw them from the mistakes of the leaders of Chechnya. It is not necessary to stir up the national pride of the Adygey people, exaggerating in different ways the events of the 1860's—this is dangerous for the life of the people of the entire Caucasus, including the Adygey.

Why not recall the historic fact that the Slavs and the Adygeys (and also the Cossackry) have a common Cimmerian ancestor? That these peoples have a common Aryan origin and were in the distant past the same people? Why not recall the Orthodox roots of the religious faith of the Adygey tribes, which were forcibly turned to Islam by Turkey?

Why not recall the 1920's and 1930's of the 20th century, when the Russians created for the Adygeys an autonomous entity and transferred to them, free of charge, Maykop, which had been founded and built by Russians? Why not recall that for decades, Adygea was subsidized from Union funds, and even today from force of inertia is still being subsidized from there?

The seduction of power is a serious test. The leaders of the RSFSR, Ukraine, and the Belorussian SSSR, having in their time pulled down our common home in the name of strengthening their personal power, did not resist this temptation. General Dudayev likewise did not resist it. To what that led, we know. Why experience this fate again?

Let well enough alone. To stake one's fate on the diaspora, which long ago became a part of the Turkish nation, rebuffing tried and true friends—that is lunacy. The practice of dividing people into "one's own" and "stepchildren," into those who enjoy full rights and those who do not, has never brought a single ruler any good. And we hope that President Dzharimov will not go down that path.

Republican Party Head on Chechnya Events

954F1226A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 5, 1 Feb 95 pp 1- 2

[Article by Vladimir Lysenko, chairman of the Subcommittee for Development of Federal Relations of the Russian Federation State Duma and chairman of the Republican Party of Russia: "The War and the Duma: The Situation in Chechnya Through the Eyes of a Voting Deputy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A majority of State Duma deputies hold an antiwar position with respect to the Chechen crisis. But only in declarations that have no juridical force. United in this respect are Russia's Choice, Yabloko, Women of Russia, the Communists, and the Agrarians. This is quite enough for the Duma to be able to adopt a declaration condemning the introduction of troops and to demand a moratorium on military operations and immediate negotiations.

But when it comes to specific legislative acts, a sufficient number of votes is not collected (for example, there was a strong draft law prohibiting the employment of the regular army on the territory of our own country, but only 203 persons voted for it and it did not pass). The fact is that the majority of such draft laws are introduced by one faction. As a rule, Russia's Choice, and herein lies their doom. It would seem that there are no fundamental objections, but since the proposals come from the radical-democratic section of deputies, the Communists and the Agrarians do not vote for it, and, in so doing, consolidate with Zhirinovskiy, who blocks and destroys all attempts at antiwar draft laws.

I submitted a request to the deputies of Russia's Choice (since we cooperate closely) that drafts be submitted not only by them. Unfortunately, the impression was created that it was not very important to them whether these laws passed or not. The main thing is that Choice proposed them and the Duma rejected them. I do not understand this approach. What is more important for us—peace in Russia or the forthcoming elections? Alas, populism prevails, and therefore neither the State Duma nor the Federation Council were able to pass documents that would be able realistically to influence executive authority and stop the war in Chechnya through legislation.

The discussion on Chechnya has shifted to an analysis of personal affairs. At the end of last month, certain names were continuously mentioned that were not pleasing to either side. Kovalev and Yushenkov on one side and, on the other side—Grachev, Stepashin, Yegorov, and certain officials who directly initiated military operations in Chechnya.

In the final analysis, all the names became secondary, and only two names remained that seemed to be the standard bearers of these two positions—Sergey Kovalev and Pavel Grachev.

I have known Sergey Adamovich for a long time, and I have great respect for him, but some of the Communists voted against him last Friday not so much for his position on Chechnya as for October 1993. It seems to me that Sergey Adamovich should also have spoken at that time, as a person who was neutral and was bound to speak about human rights violations regardless of his own sympathies and antipathies.

Nevertheless, I believe that Kovalev fulfilled a great and very important mission to save Chechnya from total destruction and attract the public's attention to this problem. He was accused, it is true, of exploring the actions of only one of the belligerents and of not talking about the human rights violations of the Dudayev regime.

I must say that, yes, the Dudayev regime does not really evoke any sympathy, and there were numerous violations there—people were disappearing without trace, people were killed without trial or investigation, etc. But at the same time I am firmly convinced that attention should have been paid a long time ago to all the human rights violations that were taking place there. But we should not have reacted to all this with the kind of grandiose war that flared up there. After all, we were not defending human rights on the territory of the Chechen Republic, but creating 800,000 refugees from the 1.5 million population.

So, given all the contradictions of the situation, I support Sergey Adamovich's position, and I respect him.

As for Pavel Grachev, when the vote was underway for his dismissal neither the Communists nor the Agrarians, I understand, voted. An important role here was very likely played by preliminary behind-the-scenes negotiations, about which we have no knowledge. As far as I know, there are also two wings in the Communist Party, one of which is antiwar and internationalist, and the other—authoritarian, and close in spirit to Zhirinovskiy. There is a feeling that the latter prevailed, and therefore Grachev's dismissal did not pass.

Recent events in the Federation Council, in which a draft appeared on impeaching the president, on the resignation of the government, and on pulling out of the Security Council, indicate that the patience of the deputy corps is being tried and that the regional elite in the Federation Council also cannot tolerate this war. I think that this is a serious last call to the president, and that he stands on the brink of direct confrontation with the representative organs of authority.

The reaction in the West is also becoming more active today, because the initial hopes for a blitzkrieg and a resolution of the Chechen problem in several days did not materialize. The West sees that a real war is going on now with the massive deaths of a peaceful population. Therefore, the latest statements of the leaders of a number of Western countries, authoritative international organizations, and even appeals not to give aid to Russia and to boycott it on a number of positions indicate that if the policy being conducted by the leadership of the executive authority continues, the country could end up isolated internationally.

As for the reaction of the components of the Federation, analysis has shown that more than half the representatives of the organs of authority of the components of the Federation (dumas, oblast assemblies, and parliaments of the republic) condemned the introduction of troops and expressed themselves exclusively in favor of a peaceful resolution of the problem. At the same time, the governors, in contrast to October 1993 when they unanimously supported Yeltsin, are silent today. The people who depend on the president are not speaking against him, but at the same time they do not support what is going on in Chechnya. The indignation of people in the republics is growing—they see a possible precedent for what is occurring in Chechnya with respect to their own republics.

We are now conducting negotiations with a number of leaders of Federation components concerning the conduct of a peace conference to settle the situation in Chechnya.

It is already clear that no one is listening to us individually. Therefore, we are now attempting to assemble a representative conference to propose a plan for the peaceful settlement of the situation in Chechnya; and regardless of whether the Kremlin supports it or not, the conference will become an independent political force and will assume the function of a mediator and a guarantor of the implementation of a peace plan.

This kind of conference has been conducted in a number of other conflicts (Abkhazia, Bosnia), and in many cases became the beginning of a normalization of the situation. This kind of forum can help the Russian authorities get out of the dead end situation and save face, which is extremely important now.

It is possible under the aegis of a peace conference (I emphasize—not under the aegis of the president, or of Yegorov, but specifically under the aegis of a peace conference) to assemble a national Chechnya roundtable to which a representatives from every settlement of the republic will be invited and to find at this roundtable a formula for temporary authority in Chechnya that makes it possible to stabilize the economic situation and begin to move toward the next elections. I am convinced that an imposed puppet government will be doomed, and it is impossible for Moscow to rely on this. The kind of mechanisms of authority that will enjoy the trust of both belligerents, who are still at war today, have to be found.

Economic Issues

IMF Talks Suspended Due To Chechnya, Minimum Wage Rise

LD0702205595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov has reportedly said that additional spending on Chechnya is not the sole reason for the suspension of talks with the IMF on a $6-billion credit. A member of the Women of Russia parliamentary faction has said Petrov told the faction Tuesday [7 February] that the State Duma's decision to raise the minimum wage to 54,100 rubles was a no less serious a reason. "The IMF is not going to extend credits to finance wages", Antonina Zhilina has said.

Zhilina, who is a member of the budget committee, recalled that it had originally been planned that the credit would be extended to Russia by quarterly installments, so the delay in negotiations was not "critical".

Petrov met with the Women of Russia faction regarding the discussion of the draft federal budget in the State Duma. Zhilina said the faction had persuaded the Finance Ministry to include the Children of Russia program in the budget as a special entry and most of the faction's members were going to vote for the budget.

Official Denies Breakdown of Talks

LD0702195295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (Interfax)—There are no grounds to speak of complications in, let alone a breakdown, of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, First Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Vavilov told Interfax on Tuesday.

"We have generally agreed on all points of a would be deal, but final touches will have to be made to the agreement and the size of an IMF credit determined", he said.

The minister spoke of IMF's positive assessment of the government-proposed budget draft finalized by the conciliatory commission of the Russian parliament. IMF experts believe if implemented, the new budget will help the government meet its obligations on financial stabilization and curbing inflation in the country, Vavilov said.

On the atmosphere of negotiations, he pointed to IMF's flexibility and constructive stand with no mention being made of the Chechen crisis. Nor were the talks affected by conflicting statements by Russian political leaders though these used to weaken our position in the past, Vavilov said.

In his view, the would be deal must be seen as a starting point for further talks on the whole spectrum of Moscow's foreign trade policy including the restructuring of its debt to Paris and London Clubs, World Bank loans and the floating of Russian securities on world markets. However, Vavilov does not rule out a review of the size of the IMF credit depending on when the credit lines will be used and what the ruble's current rate of exchange will be.

The two sides meet again in two weeks' time for more talks on the wording of the agreement, said the minister.

Government, IMF Ready To Resume Talks

LD0702200695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (FIA) [as received]—Representatives of the International Monetary Funds (IMF) and Russian government "have reached a substantial progress thanks to which we can hope that the IMF Directors Board would possibly consider the issue on granting reserve credit to Moscow amounting to $6 billion," says a joint communique on the results of the regular round of negotiations which was concluded the day before in Moscow.

The discussions were focused on economic program of the Russian government for 1995, the aim of which is to create "conditions for steady growth of economy on the basis of a sharp reduction of inflation rate and stabilization of the ruble's exchange rate," the document states.

Participants of the negotiations have coordinated "necessary measures in the sphere of budget, fiscal policy, foreign trade, power engineering and privatization," the communique underlines.

In general, the program under discussion "is a radical and successive one," however, "part of its key aspects with respect to the above mentioned spheres should be additionally coordinated," the document says.

The parties expressed intention to resume negotiations "in the near term."

IMF: Talks 'Positive,' Loan Withheld

MM0802092395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "IMF Withholds Loan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IMF considers the results of the talks with the Russian authorities which concluded on the evening of 6 February in Moscow to have been positive. Russia has given a number of "serious" replies "appropriate to the circumstances" to the questions about its economic policy, but they are insufficient for obtaining loans from the Fund, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus stated at a meeting with journalists in Paris 7 February, ITAR-TASS reports.

Money Outweighs 'Principles' in U.S. Sanctions

MM0702165895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "America Rejects Chinese Sports Shoes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—President Bill Clinton has endorsed the implementation of the toughest trade sanctions in this country's history. They are aimed at China and apply to a vast number of goods worth billions of dollars. Within two hours the Chinese leadership had announced retaliatory sanctions, which will hit a number of leading corporations, among them Westinghouse, Motorola, Boeing, and General Motors.

The United States reacted very sensitively to Beijing's refusal last spring to discuss human rights and tone down the persecution of dissidents. The issue concerned fundamental principles that are very dear to Washington's heart. The subordination of foreign trade to these principles is enshrined in law. There is a similar implication in the Jackson-Vanik law, which does not exist de facto but has not formally been revoked and is still poisoning relations between America and the completely new Russia. Russia has long been letting everyone go wherever they want but the amendment remains in force.

But Russia is a star of the 20th magnitude on the American trade horizon. You cannot say the same about China. By last spring trade between China and the United States had reached a level of many billions of dollars and orders from the PRC provided employment for thousands of Americans. After much hesitation and calculation the White House decided to waive its principles anyway and not impose any sanctions on Beijing for suppressing freedom of the press, conscience, and speech.

Since then, the situation with Chinese human rights has become even worse, as the U.S. State Department recently announced. However, it was not this which set the repressive mechanism of U.S. foreign trade in motion at the very end of last week. In the first 11 months of 1994 (the December statistics are not available) the United States imported Chinese goods worth $36 billion and exported goods worth $8.5 billion.

This 30-billion discrepancy is only half as large as the awesome trade deficit with Japan, which has long made that country the nightmare of the U.S. Federal Reserve System. Since President Carter's day there has not been a single administration which has not asked Tokyo to put things right before Washington's patience snapped and it sorted everything out itself, only for the worse. However, the Japanese did not want to put things right but the Americans were unable to make things worse.

Perhaps it will not work with China either although the 30-billion deficit, as the White House believes, is largely due to the brazen theft of American intellectual property. There are 39 major Chinese enterprises—a considerable proportion of which belong to the state—which are distributing pirated compact discs, videos, and computer disks around the world in vast quantities.

Thefts of intellectual property happen virtually everywhere. But for the most part it is done for limited personal use. The Americans are convinced that China has made this its speciality. The United States calculates its loss from this pirate copying at $2 billion a year at least.

This is a lot. It is even more than those difficult-to-waive principles. For six months Washington held talks with

China on closing the state-sector factories which are carrying out the pirating. But when the invitation came to visit Washington to continue the talks there was simply no reply from the PRC.

The sanctions were announced last Friday but they are not due to take effect until 26 February. But will they? There is a hope that the prospect of disaster will spur on the talks and that the conflicts will be sorted out.

The sanctions will affect Chinese footwear and silk blouses although they will not affect Chinese soft toys which have flooded children's stores in America.

Taxes will add another $100 to the $100 price tag on Chinese bicycles. That will make them uncompetitive and lead to their disappearance from sale. But the Chinese bicycles themselves are to blame, in the opinion of the initiators of the sanctions. First, they are made at state enterprises—the Americans were not trying to hit private business. Second, a great many bicycles in the stores are of British and Japanese make.

At the same time all Chinese electronic goods have been removed from the list of goods to be heavily taxed. These goods are primarily semi-manufactured components for the U.S. computer industry. China today is the largest supplier of conductors, cables, and electrical circuit board components. And generally speaking sanctions are imposed in such a way as to do the least possible damage to the interests of U.S. companies.

Observers here also express the opinion that the sanctions have been imposed to prompt the Chinese to make the right choice in the present transitional period when Deng Xiaoping is clearly not going to return to active leadership of the country and his successor has not been identified yet. However, no one is even discussing how the sanctions might work in the required direction and what direction that is anyway.

As for the Jackson-Vanik amendment, here the U.S. legislators simply cannot be bothered to do anything at all. The Russian economy is not the second largest in the world (that place belongs to Japan) nor the third (that, they claim, belongs to the PRC), nor is it even fourth or fifth, where Germany is competing with France. But the less money there is on the table, the more firmly they adhere to their principles.

Cabinet To Discuss Foreign Trade Activity

LD0802093395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 8 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—The Russian cabinet today meets to appraise the results of the country's foreign economic activity in 1994 and hear minister for foreign economic relations Oleg Davydov's forecasts for export and import operations in 1995.

According to sources in the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, the value of Russia's foreign trade operations in 1994 increased by 5.1 billion dollars, and its total export-import turnover reached 76,223 million dollars, up 7.2 percent from 1993. The value of exports exceeded that of imports by 19.8 billion roubles.

Russia's major trade partners in 1994 were Germany (13 percent of the total foreign trade turnover), the United States (7.3 percent), Britain (6.4), Italy (5.7), China (5.0), the Netherlands, Finland. Switzerland and Japan (4.8 - 4.2 percent).

Trade with India showed a marked increase.

As production in Russia continued to dwindle and the domestic prices of goods and services kept growing, the increase in the value of exports was mainly due to the growth of the physical volume of exported goods, mainly raw materials. The country in 1994 exported goods and services worth 48,027 million dollars.

Also on Wednesday, the cabinet will discuss means to regulate the securities market and the activity of stock markets. It will also examine draft federal laws on the forestries, geodesy and cartography.

Bolshakov Views CIS Economic Integration

LD0802060895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 2252 GMT on 7 February carries a five-minute live or recorded interview with Aleksey Bolshakov, Russian deputy prime minister and chairman of the Presidium of the Interstate Economic Committee, MEK, by announcer Yuliy Semenov on the "World Today" program.

Semenov asks Bolshakov about the upcoming CIS summit in Almaty. Bolshakov says that the customs union already agreed upon by Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus inspired hope that the MEK would continue to progress. He adds that other states have also expressed interest.

Bolshakov says: "I can say officially that interest has been expressed by three states at the level of their presidents—by Georgia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The rest are still studying the matter."

Bolshakov says that any states wishing to join the customs union will have to reach a certain level of economic reforms.

Bolshakov gives assurances that economic integration will not just mean Russia providing cheap resources and credits and writing off debts. He says: "We currently have no plans to give credits to any country in 1995. The process is now under way of signing and completing the drafts of trade and economic agreements with all the CIS countries. One of the essential conditions that Russia is making to each republic, to each newly independent state, is to ask: What do you plan to do about the debts that have been accumulated over the past years? The financial resources may not always exist in a particular state, but agreement will always be based on progress being made in economic reforms and on using the property of a particular state to pay off the debts that they owe us, that they owe Russia.

"Secondly, we will have a mutual market; we will have a normal exchange of goods. I think that everyone who studies economics understands that the expansion of the market is a major benefit both for Russia and for these republics."

Russia's Choice Urges 1995 Draft Budget Redistribution

MK0802105095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Feb 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Russia's Choice Faction Proposes Amendments to the Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russia's Choice faction in the Russian Federation State Duma has discussed at its session amendments to the draft law on the 1995 federal budget. The faction proposes a reduction in state foreign loans by $300 million. It is also advised to reduce spending for administration (by 625 billion rubles) and for the maintenance of internal affairs bodies (by 755 billion rubles) and state security bodies (by 320 billion). The faction believes additional funds need to be allotted to repay the debt on defense orders, to support agriculture, and also for fundamental research projects, education, culture, and art.

Russian Banks Skeptical About Fixed Ruble Rate

LD0702205795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7 (FIA-INTERFAX)—Commenting on the plans to introduce a fixed ruble rate against the U.S. dollar in an interview with Interfax's Financial Information Agency (FIA) Tuesday [7 February], the leaders of a number of Russia's leading banks were quite skeptical about the consequences of their implementation.

The chairman of the International Industrial Bank, Sergey Pugachyov, supposed that the step would promote the creation of a black currency market, an increase in illegal transactions by non- banking structures and, as a result, a decline in federal tax revenues.

The chairwoman of Avtobank, Natalya Rayevskaya, said that "a fixed ruble rate will first affect industrial enterprises and only then the banking system." Banks will also suffer losses on operations with hard currency, she added.

The chairman of MOST-Bank, Boris Khait, emphasized that now it was too difficult to judge on the expediency of the measure. The government must publish the financial reasons for the step before planning any innovations, he said.

A deputy chairman of the Moscow-based bank Neftyanoy, Stanislav Balakin, remarked that the introduction of a fixed ruble rate was "a totally unrealistic task" due to the high inflation rate and economic instability.

At the same time, Russian bankers said they "intended to support any of the government's decisions in order not to rock the economy" after they voiced a number of critical remarks.

Earlier this month, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said that the government was "fully considering" the possibility of introducing a fixed ruble rate. According to Chubays, it would be possible, if the Central Bank of Russia had bigger hard currency resources. In addition, the monthly inflation rate must be kept below 15%, while it was 16.4% in December 1994 and about 18% in January 1994.

Chernomyrdin Receives Coal Industry Chief

LD0702150195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1316 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb—"Problems of the coal industry and miners' aspirations met with understanding", said Yuriy Malyshev, director general of the state company "Rosugol", commenting on today's meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation government. In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS he said that at the meeting, which was also attended by First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, they discussed the situation in the coal industry and the question of its financing. You may recall that previously the 1995 draft budget stipulated a 3,600 billion ruble subsidy for the industry. At the same time, according to the estimates of the coal mining industry, supported by the Russian Ministry of the Economy, the industry needs no less than 10,000 billion rubles.

In order to find the additional funds for the coal industry in 1995 Viktor Chernomyrdin has given an order to channel some funds obtained from the special tax to finance the coal industry. Apart from that, some other countries' debts to Russia—approximately $500 million, may also be used for that purpose. Yuriy Malyshev believes that these funds will be sufficient to compensate the budget shortfall. He also said that coal miners, who understand the complicated situation the government finds itself in, will try to find additional resources within the industry.

Yuriy Malyshev was confident that the government's understanding of coal industry problems and the intention to improve the situation in the industry through specific measures would reduce strike actions among the miners. In connection with that he noted that not all miners' collectives were going to participate in tomorrow's 24 hour warning strike. He believes that although many will support the action, they will not stop working because they realize that this would bring losses to enterprises and would not help to solve the economic problems. To prove his point he quoted the example of the Maritime Kray mines, where the suspension in the production of coal led to the closure of the thermal power station, and an interruption in heat supplies to the whole region, including the miners' families.

Strike Situation in Mining Enterprises Noted

LD0702233195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT carries the scheduled nine-minute "Details" program moderated by correspondent Aleksandr Abramenko. The program reviews the situation in several mining enterprises. Panel members include Vladimir Katalnikov, chairman, regional trade union of coalminers from the Rostovugol association; Boris Yeremin, chairman, Glubokaya mining enterprise; Yevgeniy Golubev, chairman, trade union of the 50 Let Oktyabrya mine; and Fedor Kushnarev, the Rostovenergo general director. Reception is good.

The program begins with remarks by Katalnikov. He explains why they had no other choice but to go on strike. He says the strike is continuing and that the miners do not intend to retreat from their initial demands as, for them, they are a vital matter. He notes that it is a question not only of payment of wages already earned; rather, the situation at the region's mines is such that without stable state support the miners could soon find themselves without a job.

Yeremin points out that no additional timber and metal are now being supplied to the pit faces.

At this point, Abramenko says that the Gukovugol miners, representing the second biggest association, are so far not taking part in the regional strike, even though they too are in a deplorable state and support the demands of their nearest colleagues. He says a key reason for this is that at most mines there are many Ukrainian miners, so called foreigners, who are little interested in the prospects of the Russian coal industry. They come here only to earn wages and agree to far lower wages than those demanded by Russian miners.

Golubev then says that if one takes the mines of the Donetsk basin that also belong to the Gukovugol association and that mine coke, these too are on the verge of closure. People's morale has been crushed by this and they are afraid that a strike would only speed up their closure.

If at last the government does not formulate its attitude to the coal industry in general and to the Russian Donbass in particular, which has its specific problems, Abramenko says, the situation can only get worse, something that will affect not only miners' families, but the economy of the region as a whole.

Kushnarev then stresses that Russian and world reserves of coal and fuel oil are literally a hundred times less than solid fuel; therefore, whether or not power generators are ready for using this fuel in view of the ecological conditions, in the long-term the need for coal for generating power and heat will keep increasing. This also applies to the Rostov region.

At this point, Abramenko states that the miners cannot understand why money is found for the war in Chechnya, which they have little understanding for and where their own children are also dying, and every other time there is no money when it is time to pay them for their arduous work.

Yeremin then recalls that there were several commissions on closing miner, and they came to the conclusion that continuing to finance loss-making mines is cheaper than closing them as very large redundancy payments would be involved.

Defense Enterprises Reconversion Seen as Essentially Dead

LD0702213395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today a first meeting of the supervisory and monitoring council on military and technical cooperation took place on the premises of the state armament [Rosvooruzheniye] company. In his message to the meeting, President Yeltsin described those gathered—chief designers and heads of military enterprises—as Russia's research and industrial elite. It appears that the Kremlin has finally decided that there should be proper order in the military-industrial complex, and that it should be taken off the survival diet and given sizeable orders.

By the same token, the state asking for new military research and development projects and improvements in the production of weapons. Russia is seriously intending to raise the shaking authority of the military-industrial complex and to regain, with its assistance, world markets. Yeltsin believes that in the conditions of tough competition on the arms market, coordinated and consistent actions are now required more than ever. That is why the state is creating a single state-run system of manufacturing and selling weapons. In this newly set up supervisory council, directors of enterprises and chief designers of construction bureaus will be able to protect their own interests directly and discuss problems as they emerge.

[Begin recording] [Boris Kuzyk, assistant to president of the Russian Federation on military and technical cooperation] In these times, difficult for the defense industry, the main purpose it to get developers, manufacturers, and special exporters to consolidate their efforts. [end recording]

It also appears that the program of conversion of defense enterprises, which was so popular a few years ago, is about to die. In any case, this is what Aleksandr Kotelkin, the general director of the state company Rosvooruzheniye believes.

[Begin recording] [Kotelkin] I can see very clearly that this concept, in my view, has died. Only people who are not aware of the real situation in the industry are still talking about it. Today conversion does not envisage full re-specialization of enterprises to manufacture high technology equipment; rather, it's manufacturing knives, canning food, and so on. No way! [end recording]

[passage omitted]

International Affairs

Foreign Ministry Favors Integration of CIS States

LD0702133895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev February 7 TASS—Ukraine calls for a broader integration of CIS states and wants a more active role in the commonwealth, director of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry CIS Problems Department Aleksandr Danilchenko told ITAR-TASS. Danilchenko said this is the stance of official Kiev and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine places much hope on the summit of CIS leaders of states ahead on February 10 in the Kazakh capital Almaty, Danilchenko said. The summit's agenda includes the initiative of Kuchma to set up a scientific information union. This indicates that the CIS leaders want to design mechanisms to activate the cooperation within the CIS, the Foreign Ministry official said.

However, official Kiev thinks the future focus should be on horizontal bilateral ties, with Russia remaining a priority for Ukraine, Danilchenko said. Ukraine will insist on signing a CIS peace and stability memorandum at the Almaty summit, the ministry spokesman added.

Soskovets Heads Russian Delegation Negotiations

'Concrete' Achievements Noted in Talks

LD0702195195 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 7 Feb—"There are some concrete positive achievements in bilateral Ukrainian-Russian relations, such as, the agreements 'On Cooperation in 1995' and 'On the Foreign Debt and Assets of Ukraine', which are of great importance to Ukraine." This was a statement made at the beginning of a fresh round of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations by Yevhen Marchuk, head of the Ukrainian delegation.

Mr. Marchuk said: "In the course of negotiations, mutual understanding was extended on a whole range of issues, primarily, on such a complex subject as the Black Sea Fleet."

As for the problems that remain unresolved, Mr. Marchuk said he hoped they would be settled and that the final decision was to be taken by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. He said there existed an understanding between Ukraine and Russia concerning such problematic issues as the debts, payment for energy, and so forth. Both sides have already initialed the 10 agreements that are part of a multilateral treaty, with the subjects covered such as external economic relations, defense cooperation, and cultural ties.

Oleg Soskovets, head of the Russian delegation, said he was certain the sides would successfully do this. He called on his colleagues to work constructively, adding: "We have come here to resolve problems."

Soskovets Says Relations 'Civilized'

LD0702202295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko, Viktor Demidenko, and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev February 7 TASS—"Russian-Ukrainian relations have become civilized, and it is now possible to expand and consolidate economic and political ties between the two states," First Russian Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets told correspondents here today upon the completion of Russian-Ukrainian talks on finalization of a basic treaty on friendship and cooperation.

"Well-prepared Russian-Ukrainian documents testify to the reliable basis for further intergovernmental contacts," said Soskovets, who is heading the Russian delegation to the negotiations.

In his turn, Ukrainian delegation head and First Vice-Premier Yevheniy Marchuk noted that Russian-Ukrainian relations are dynamic. The sides have initialed ten joint documents in the foreign economic, military-technical, scientific and humanitarian spheres.

Marchuk believes it is very important to search for new untraditional ways to settle the problem of Ukrainian debts and payments for energy carriers. "The Russian understanding of this problem has been welcomed by Ukraine," he stressed.

Speaking of the Black Sea Fleet, Marchuk said "the sides have reached pragmatic understanding of the fleet problems". He hopes that the fleet issue will be prepared by the upcoming summit and the presidents will make a decision on the problem.

The sides agreed to focus their negotiations on three aspects: political, military-technical, including the Black Sea Fleet, and financial-economic.

Today First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets will also meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Kuchma Receives Russian Delegation

LD0702211095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Maryana Angelova for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev February 7 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma received today a Russian delegation headed by First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets. This meeting was a climax of the first day of

Russian-Ukrainian negotiations aiming to sign a comprehensive Treaty on Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation.

In the words of Kuchma, Ukraine attaches special importance to relations with Russia in view of historical closeness, political and economic inter-dependency. He hopes that the arrival of so representative a delegation will enable solution of basic problems and preparedness for the treaty signing during the upcoming Kiev visit of the Russian president.

In his turn, Oleg Soskovets said he is optimistic about a possibility to reach agreements during the current round of negotiations. "We have come to prepare the summit and sign basic documents," he said. Soskovets believes that Ukraine should catch up with "the level of Russian relations with Kazakhstan and Belarus. Russia and Ukraine have fraternal ties. We respect its independence, it is our close neighbour".

In the opinion of Russian ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Smelyakov [name as received], the meeting results testify to the easing of the sides' stands on almost all aspects.

Progress on Dual Citizenship Resolution

LD0702213995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"The sides met each other half way on dual citizenship in the course of Ukrainian-Russian talks," Yevhen Marchuk, the head of the Ukrainian delegation and first deputy prime minister, told journalists today. The delegation believes this problem can be resolved on the basis of a separate bilateral agreement outside a large-scale treaty on friendship, partnership, and cooperation.

Marchuk said the sides had relaxed their stance considerably since the latest round of talks. He added that Russian President Yeltsin would visit Kiev in September at the latest.

Marchuk on Yeltsin Visit, Talks With Soskovets

LD0702214195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 7 Feb 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Ukraine no later than March, Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk said Tuesday [7 February].

The exact date for Yeltsin's arrival will most likely be announced Wednesday, after current bilateral talks are over, Marchuk said.

The talks, at which the Russian delegation is led by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, have brought progress in "practically every area" of the two post-Soviet states' relations, Marchuk said. "The two sides have been making concessions to each other," he said. Nearly all disputes over a broad political treaty, to be signed by the two presidents, have been resolved, and on the Black Sea Fleet issue "a formula has been found that can form a basis for a joint declaration that can be signed by the presidents of the two countries," Marchuk said.

But Kiev's arrears for Russian energy and payments it has to make to Moscow for current energy supplies have proved the most difficult problem to settle, he said.

National Affairs

Crimea Urges Kuchma To Sign Russian Treaty

954F1241A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 95 p 1

[Supreme Council of Crimea appeal to the president and Supreme Council of Ukraine]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. President! Esteemed People's Deputies!

As a result of the disintegration of the USSR and the severance of economic relations the national economic complex of Ukraine and the Crimea face the threat of total collapse. The policy and actual actions of a number of leaders of countries of the CIS aimed at unification, the creation of a common defense system and a single economic space, and the elimination of customs barriers have been perceived positively by all who understand that without one another we shall not survive.

With the normal operation of the national economic complex, the economy of Ukraine and Crimea was always oriented toward the raw material resources and market of Russia. The silence of the president and the people's deputies of Ukraine in response to the appeal of V.S. Chernomyrdin, head of the Government of the Russian Federation, for accession to the treaty, which has been signed by Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, is puzzling, therefore.

Guided by the express wishes of the people of the Republic of Crimea, the Supreme Council of Crimea proposes accession to a treaty that permits an escape from the economic crisis, the restoration of the ravaged ties, and the elimination of the artificially erected barriers between republics and peoples that have lived together for centuries.

Meshkov Assesses Year in Office

954F1241B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 95 p 1

[Statement of Yu. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea; place and date not given: "Citizens of the Republic of Crimea, Dear Crimeans!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reconstitution of the statehood of Crimea in 1991 placed on the agenda the question of the creation of the institutions of state power in our young republic. The former Supreme Council, which operated on a part-time basis, hampered the reform of power in every possible way, although the majority of republics of the former Union, including the autonomies, had embarked on the path of the introduction of such progressive institutions of democracy as a presidency and professional law- making bodies.

Various viewpoints have been expressed at one time or another on the law "On the President of the Republic of Crimea." But since its adoption and, especially, the tallying of the election results not one political force in Crimea or Ukraine, the official authorities included, has disputed the fact of the popular election of a president. Thus the institution of the presidency, as a form of democracy tried and tested in the experience of other countries, became completely legitimate.

Unfortunately, certain forces managed to provoke the confrontation of the branches of power, which impeded the progress of the social and economic reforms so necessary for an improvement in the life of ordinary Crimeans. This confrontation enabled forces outside of our peninsula to conduct an offensive against the foundations of our statehood and against what the people of Crimea had secured peacefully and democratically.

But the past year may be characterized by more than just this. Despite the natural disasters that came crashing down on our peninsula, the grim economic position, and the adverse crime situation, in which Crimea has found itself together with Ukraine, we succeeded in putting together a budget, stabilizing the situation somewhat at many industrial enterprises, and concluding mutually beneficial treaties and agreements with Russia and its regions and a number of other states of the world.

What is most important is that peace and national harmony have been preserved in Crimea.

There is a growing recognition that only by the joint efforts of all strata of society and all branches of power can an independent democratic and law-based state, as the guarantor of the observance of generally recognized human rights and liberties, be built. On the whole, constructive healthy forces are sufficiently strong in society, as before. A committee and council of social accord are being formed.

Our strength lines in unity. Unity is the guarantor of prosperity.

The president has remained true to his program and will fulfill it unswervingly. The main goal of the program is the good of the people of Crimea—all citizens of our republic.

Dear Crimeans! Much arduous joint work to strengthen and develop the economic and legal independence of our young state as the basis of the assured protection of the life, honor, and dignity of each citizen and his well-being lies ahead.

Concerned With Size of State Apparatus

LD0802135995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1125 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—During the Republic of Crimea's existence, "the size of the state apparatus, in particular of the executive and legislative branches, has grown excessively from 1,078 to 1,546 persons at the expense of the state budget," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said in a letter sent on 8 February to the chairman of Crimea's Supreme Council, Serhiy Tsekov. The letter notes that according to information at the president's disposal, it is planned to increase the number of abovementioned workers this year. "This amount of functionaries is overburdensome for our people and gives rise to indignation among the citizens of Crimea," Yuriy Meshkov stated.

He proposed to hold a conference in February and adopt a decision on not permitting the size of the state apparatus to be increased.

Invitation To Sign 'General Accord'

LD0702220595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1906 GMT 7 Feb 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has invited all political forces to conclude a treaty on "general accord".

Meshkov's press service quotes the draft treaty published on Tuesday [7 February] as saying that the President of the Republic of Crimea, political parties, trade unions and other public associations "in the name of general accord ... Conclude this treaty, thereby placing common interests above corporate, party or departmental ones and recognize the impermissibility of resolving any problems in society through any form of violence".

The treaty concerns such issues as the achievement of political stability, an end to the crisis in the region and relations among peoples populating the Crimea, the safety of each citizen in society and other topics.

The draft emphasizes ways of implementing its provisions and on the responsibility of its participants.

Meshkov suggests concluding the treaty for a term of three years. It could be prolonged, provided all signatories consent to this.

Division of Ukraine, Crimea Property Requested

954F1208A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 95 p 1

[Letter to President L.D. Kuchma from the Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council: "On Division of State

Property in Crimea Into General State Property of Ukraine and State Property of the Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea on 23 January 1995 received as information from the Government of Crimea a number of documents, including: the draft edict of the president of Ukraine, "On Measures for Accelerating the Reform of Property of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"; the draft decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, "On the Condition of the Interdepartmental Commission for Conducting an Inventory of State-Owned Facilities of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"; and the accompanying letter with clarification of the content of the aforementioned drafts on behalf of First Deputy Prime Minister Ye.K. Marchuk, signed by the chairman of the State Property Fund of Ukraine, Yu.I. Yekhanurov.

If the president of Ukraine had signed the edict in the redaction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the State Property Fund of Ukraine, the Republic of Crimea would be practically deprived of property as defined by legislation in force in the republic. This follows from the draft decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and means the actual transfer of state property of the Republic of Crimea to Ukraine. This is also borne out by the text of the letter accompanying the document.

The adoption of such a decision is based on the absence of a final list of general facilities owned by Ukraine in the Republic of Crimea and a legislative base for reforming property in Crimea.

The signing of the draft edict of the president of Ukraine in the proposed redaction would legitimize the previously published order of the State Property Fund of Ukraine No. 962 of 16 December 1994, on the creation of a regional branch of the State Property Fund of Ukraine in the Republic of Crimea, whose functioning on the territory of the republic was suspended by the decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea "On the Regional Branch of the State Property Fund of Ukraine for the Republic of Crimea," No. 304-1 of 12 January 1995.

Unilateral actions on the part of organs of state executive power of Ukraine with respect to the Republic of Crimea were taken previously as well, but in questions of division of state property they affect the republic's fundamental constitutional principles.

In compliance with the decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea "On Division of State Property Into Property of Ukraine and Property of the Republic of Crimea," No. 362-1 of 30 June 1993, a draft decree, "On Division of State Property Into Property of Ukraine and Property of Crimea," was sent to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with a list of enterprises, organizations, and institutions that are the property of the republic.

In February 1994, a work group of the Government of Crimea and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine considered the question of dividing up property. The protocol of the joint conference of 19 February 1994 to the State Property Fund of Ukraine gave instructions to prepare before 1 March 1994 the corresponding document on division of state property of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea. But the instruction was not carried out.

The prolonged lack of certainty regarding state property of Ukraine and the property of the Republic of Crimea deprived the organs of state power of the opportunity to adopt a substantiated program for economic development of Crimea and to develop the corresponding legislative base.

Not until December 1994 did the State Property Fund of Ukraine unilaterally prepare drafts of the edict of the president of Ukraine, "On Measures for Accelerating the Reform of Property of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" and the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, "On the Creation of an Interdepartmental Commission for Conducting an Inventory of State-Owned Facilities of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," which contradict existing legislation.

On the basis of the foregoing, with the goal of preventing an exacerbation of the disagreements between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea proposes:

1. To instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Government of Crimea, and the State Property Fund of Ukraine to adopt coordinated decisions on the division of state property in Crimea in compliance with the law of Ukraine, "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" and introduce draft laws on said issue to the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the Supreme Council of Crimea.

2. With a view to effective functioning and administration of state property in Crimea and preservation of the republic's unified economic complex, to grant the State Property Fund of Crimea the authority to administer the property of enterprises not subject to privatization according to a list approved by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea of 30 January 1995 No. 321-1.

[Signed] The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea
Simferopol
30 January 1995
No. 13-1 PVS

Ethnic Ukrainians Urged To Quit Russian Army

AU0802083995 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 2 Feb 95 p 1

["Appeal to Russian Army Servicemen of Ukrainian Origin: Drive Your Bayonets Into the Ground and Go Home!" by the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having proclaimed itself as a successor to the USSR and having inherited the totalitarian regime with its ironclad imperial and chauvinist stereotypes and ruthless ideology and practice, ignoring human rights, Russia has brought about serious consequences not only for those states that emerged on the ruins of the putrefied Union, but also for the whole world.

Ukrainian bread, butter, meat, and sugar, which Russia takes for a song in exchange for oil, gas, and timber, are no longer sufficient for it. It also needs well-disciplined, strong, and courageous Ukrainian soldiers for waging its imperial wars.

Russian generals, having received tens of thousands of Russified Ukrainian officers, went ahead with their barbaric action against the Northern Caucasus.

Ukrainian Officers,

Ukraine is your fatherland. Without you, Russia's aggressiveness is largely theoretical. You are required for practical steps.

You have been cheated not only by "your own," but mainly by alien adventurers. For the sake of alien imperial ambitions, you are liberally spilling your blood and sacrificing your lives. Russia is striving to shape its history with other people's hands and blood.

The Abkhazian, Tajik, and Chechen variants of aggression will be followed by others. Moscow generals will continue to use you as their cannon-fodder. At the expense of spilling your blood, they will strive to strengthen a new evil empire around the Kremlin.

Realize this, ethnic Ukrainians with Russian weapons in your hands!

Today you are spilling Chechen blood, and tomorrow you may be forced to spill your own people's blood in the name of the empire and in the name of Moscow colonizers and mafioso criminals.

Stop!
God and Ukraine are with you!
Drive your bayonets into the ground and go home!
The spirit of your forefathers is calling you!

Kuchma: Division of Power Remains 'Acute Problem'

WS0702140195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1010 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine's President Kuchma has said that the issue of division of power remains the most acute problem in relations between the Verkhovna Rada (the Ukrainian parliament) and the presidency.

Mr. Kuchma, who was speaking at a press conference in Donetsk on Friday, February 3, said that if the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada failed to adopt the draft "Law on Power" he would be forced to seek the opinion of the Ukrainian people by conducting an opinion poll. He added that if the Ukrainian parliament was interested in taking responsibility for the fate of the nation, it should legally confirm that the president is only the head of the government, and nothing more.

Commenting on the parliament's alleged intention to raise a motion on a vote-of-no-confidence in the government, as well as the debate on whether to cancel the post of prime minister, Mr. Kuchma said that such a move was wrong both from the political and economic points of view. He declared his readiness to shoulder the responsibility for running the government. He, however, added that the problems surrounding the government were too many for the post of prime minister to be canceled.

Answering questions from journalists concerning the upcoming summit in Almaty, Mr. Kuchma said that economic issues will be the main topic of discussion, including a Ukrainian Government proposal on creating a unified scientific and informational network.

On the language problem in Ukraine, President Kuchma expressed support for the idea of giving the Russian language an official status, adding that he made a suggestion to that effect in his inauguration speech.

Mr. Kuchma took the opportunity to reassert his support for speedy privatization.

On relations between Ukraine and Russia, the Ukrainian president stressed that Russia must remain Ukraine's strategic partner, but not at the expense of other countries. He said that Ukraine's debts to Russia should be repaid with money and not by way of making political or economic concessions.

Kuchma Fights Old Guard With Marchuk as Sole Ally

MK0802104095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Feb 95 p 5

[Report by Konstantin Parishkura under the "Underlying Cause" rubric: "Premier Masol Likely To Be 'Ousted' Soon. Security Service Remains Last Hope for President Kuchma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent events have shown that the conflict between the president of Ukraine and the head of government has become public property. In his recent interview, Mr. Kuchma stated irritably that the premier should not have been appointed before the presidential elections; he gave it to understand that Mr. Masol should resign his government post and that the prerogative of appointing a premier should belong to the president rather than to the Supreme Soviet. In his turn, Vitaliy Masol stresses in every statement to the press that he is not leaving.

The recent conference attended by the president, where information on a probe by the Supreme Soviet organized crime commission into ex-premier Yukhym Zvyahilskyy's activities (a criminal case has already been instituted against him while he is abroad—SEGODNYA) was read out, should be regarded as yet another phase in the conflict. Following that, commission chairman Hrihoryy Omelchenko stated for everybody to hear that "at the minimum 15 heads of ministries and agencies of Ukraine, including Vitaliy Masol, should tender their resignation."

Among the aspirants for his post is Yevhen Marchuk, former intelligence officer and head of Ukraine's security service, and now first vice premier in charge of the Security Service of Ukraine and of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is this fact that observers think explains why the Supreme Soviet commission could have received a great amount of damning information about high government officials. To all appearances, the gamble is on future revelations and scandals in whose wake the left-wingers in parliament would not be able to oppose the removal of the current cabinet head. Scandals have already started and almost no one doubts that Vitaliy Masol will go.

The president's other problem is his own staff. Remaining under Kuchma are 192 old "cadres" out of the 295 staffers who used to work under President Kravchuk. Some of those who did not share Kuchma's positions have climbed up the ladder and taken up key positions. For example, Serhiy Druzhchanyy, former deputy head of the general [obshchiy] department of Kravchuk's staff, is now in charge of the secretariat. During the presidential campaign he spent four months in Cherkassy Oblast and secured Kravchuk's victory there. According to one staff member who did not want to be identified, Mr. Druzhchanyy is currently blocking the president's access to 75 percent of the most important information.

Nor is Kuchma's chief of staff Dmytro Tabachnyk helpful in preserving the president's team. For example, talking with your SEGODNYA correspondent, Petro Lelyk, internal policy department head, confirmed his intention to quit the staff. The list goes on. Incidentally, visiting the office of none other than Tabachnyk before fleeing Ukraine was Petro Kudyukin, the notorious president of the "BLASKO" shipping joint-stock company, charged with having done to the state damage worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The presidential staff is frequently visited also by some other repulsive figures, for example, former ministers whom the press almost openly refers to as criminals.

Observers in the capital of Ukraine note that Kuchma has no other way out but a tough struggle against the old and new clans. Otherwise, like those before him, he will end up bound hand and foot. In all likelihood, he will have to gamble on one person only—Yevhen Marchuk.

Democratic MPs Boycott Parliamentary Proceedings

LD0802115795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1125 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The four parliamentary groups—Statehood, Rukh, Reforms, and Center—have not returned to the parliament chamber in protest against the lack of support for approval of the deputy's powers of Levko Lukyanenko, the honorary chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party. According to Petro Sheyko, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Regulations, Deputies' Ethics, and Provision for the Activity of Deputies, the number of registered deputies (269) was insufficient for the session to open. However, taking into account the number of registered deputies near the registration table (306), Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz opened the session. According to observers, there are no more than 200 deputies in the chamber.

The abovementioned deputies' groups are demanding the approval of Levko Lukyanenko's powers and a Supreme Council presidium report on its work. Rukh chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil said that only under this condition will the deputies return to the chamber.

Deputies Demand Resignation of Parliament's Leadership

LD0702171895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—In a statement pronounced today by People's Deputy Mykola Porovskyy, the deputy groups Statehood, Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka], Reforms, and Center demanded the resignation of the parliament's leadership, the restoration of live radio broadcasts of the session, and the confirmation of Levko Lukyanenko's deputy powers.

Mykola Porovskyy said that these groups had frequently submitted proposals for getting Ukraine out of the crisis to the Supreme Council for examination. However, parliament's Communist majority and communist leadership had not taken them into account. Namely they had gotten Ukraine into the crisis, in the opinion of the statement's authors.

The deputy groups believe that not confirming Levko Lukyanenko's powers is a "cynical disregard for the opinion of the 40,000 voters," who voted for him.

Nationalists Demand Resignation of Speaker, Deputies

LD0802130795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1125 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—People's deputies belonging to the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists have started gathering signatures to demand the resignation of Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Supreme

Council, his first deputy, Oleksandr Tkachenko and the deputy chairman Oleh Dyomin.

As of 7 February, 42 people's deputies had signed the demand for their resignation. They believe that the crisis in parliament is "permanent" due to the fact that its leaders are unable to organize its work efficiently, are conducting a policy of imposing their narrow party interests, and are provoking a political confrontation in the Supreme Council. The initiators consider that one of the reasons for the expediency of the resignation is also the invalid status of the parliament chairman and his deputies who were elected by considerably less than half of the votes of the current composition of parliament.

CDPU Leader Calls for Constitutional Referendum

WS0702140295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2150 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb. 5—"The only possible way to adopt a new constitution is to call a national referendum, which should not be based on a 50 percent turnout requirement, but valid regardless of the turnout," Christian Democratic Party (CDPU) leader Vitaliy Zhuravskiy said last week at a roundtable on constitutional reforms.

"It will be possible to collect the three million votes required for launching a referendum if personal ambitions of the leaders of such parties as Rukh, Party of Democratic Revival, Democratic Party of Ukraine and Green Party do not clash with each other," the CDPU leader said.

Zhuravskiy harshly criticized parliament, saying that "the current parliament is even worse than the former one, and it is very unlikely that it will pass a new constitution."

The CDPU leader also appeared skeptical about the idea of making a special constitutional assembly responsible for passing a new constitution. "Although this approach seems to be more suitable, it will be fruitless anyway, for the election of the constitutional assembly members will be inevitably unfair and marked by political prejudices," said Zhuravskiy.

Another CDPU member, parliamentary Deputy Viktor Shyshkin pointed out that "presently there is a favorable situation for Ukraine's being admitted to the Council of Europe earlier than Russia, but, to meet this end, we are to adopt not simply a new constitution, but a constitution which would meet international standards."

"If this is done, Ukraine may be admitted to the Council of Europe this year," added Shyshkin.

According to Ihor Losev, the draft constitution which was developed by the CDPU and presented on Jan. 17, is increasingly gaining popularity in parliament, even with communists. Losev said this draft constitution "is not overloaded with ideology, which would provide a basis for stability of the principles of power."

Party Warns Russia Plans To Restore USSR

AU0802103895 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 5 (186) Feb 95 p 2

[Undated "Statement by Ukraine's Democratic Party: Ignoble Intention"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 February 1995, the State Duma of the Russian Federation intends to discuss the question of denouncing the Belovezha Agreement. Ukraine's Democratic Party and its representatives within the Supreme Council deputies group "Statehood" ["Derzhavnist"] are warning Ukrainian society that the action planned by the imperial chauvinists may pose a threat of confrontation in Ukraine and in other independent republics, created on the ruins of the former USSR.

Unilateral denunciation of the Belovezha Agreement will not yet result in an instantaneous restoration of the Soviet Union, in which all republics were "equal," but the Russian Federation was first among the "equals." The implementation of the policy by methods of force in the Dniester Region, Abkhazia, Tajikistan, and now in Chechnya indicates that Russia also strives to be "first" in the CIS. At a diplomatic level, Russia has been dealing with Ukraine from a position of strength—the "Crimean card" is consistently being played and an economic blockade of Ukraine is steadily being implemented. The initiators of denouncing the Belovezha Agreement, intimidating us with the bloody events in Chechnya, are counting, at least, on two possible variants of development of the events.

First. The political adventurers hope that, in conditions of an economic crisis, after the State Duma proclaims its decision on the "illegal nature" of dismantling the Soviet Union in Belovezha in 1991, misinformed society will want to return to the past. Realizing that it is impossible, they expect that society will become agitated and the possibility of a "reunification" will arise if not on the basis of the Soviet Union, then within the 1917 Russian Empire borders. The State Duma of the Russian Federation formulates the question in precisely this way: "On Reuniting Russia." This is, in fact, a prospect for waging yet another civil war, larger and more terrible than in Chechnya or on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

Second. If Ukrainian society does not succumb to the provocation in accordance with the first variant, the Russian State Duma will gain all the same, if one considers the moods of citizens of the two countries, misinformed and given to stereotype complexes. Yeltsin's impromptu formula to the effect that "Russia never pulled out of the Soviet Union!" will continue to form a basis for creating a pseudo-legal foundation for exerting further pressure upon independent Ukraine. Fair division of assets and liabilities of the former USSR will be blocked even more vigorously at interstate negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. It will finally become possible for Russia to write off the $35 billion that it owes Ukraine for the former USSR property outside the new states. At the same time, Ukraine's "debts" for oil and gas may be raised to such a level that the highest possible payment will be demanded in return—giving up independence.

It is quite possible that, following the denunciation, the interstate talks on the division of the Black Sea Fleet will ultimately be driven to a deadlock and pressure will intensify upon Ukraine with groundless demands that dual citizenship and two state languages be adopted and that transnational enterprises be created with a view to a dominating role of the Russian presence in the Ukrainian economy.

Both the first and the second variants of the possible development of events pose a serious threat to the national interests of our independent state. Russia increasingly reveals its attempts to deprive Ukraine of its legal right to political, economic, and military self-defense. It strives to make the Ukrainian people hostage to Moscow's imperial policy and continues looking for ways of shifting internal Russian problems (political, national, and economic destabilization) to the sphere of external political relations with Ukraine.

An alternative to this danger is the consolidation of the national democratic forces and resistance to chauvinists at all levels.

Communist Coup Rumored in Press

954F1204A Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 4, 1-7 Feb 95 p 5

[Article by Svetlana Tumanova: "Underground Capitalists, Wear Your Medals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—The Ukrainian press has divulged the "secrets of a conspiracy" concerning a communist coup in Ukraine allegedly prepared for February, for the accomplishment of which use will be made of the Crimean situation. It is hard to judge the reliability of these forecasts, but there are in Crimea more than enough prerequisites conducive to a turning back of history. The Crimean parliament was one of the first to adopt a declaration denouncing the Belovezhskoye Agreement, demanding of its organizers the restoration of the Soviet Union, and at the Second Congress of Peoples of the USSR the deputies of Crimea, the sole official delegation, declared their readiness to raise the unifying red flag above the peninsula. While the countries of the CIS are reforming the cumbersome soviet structures, Leonid Kuchma is pushing through a law geared to a strengthening in Ukraine of the presidency (as far as full leadership of the vertical line of the executive, the formation of the government by himself, limitation of the legislative functions of parliament, and the right to dissolve it), and the Supreme Council of Crimea, meanwhile, has revived the communist slogan "All Power to the Soviets!" Instead of the appointment of mayors locally by the head of state and the government, as specified by the Law on the President of the Republic of Crimea, laws were adopted at the last session on a strengthening of the local councils and the general election of their deputies and chairmen, which will take place this April. A new feature taken from the forgotten old ways is the fact that the heads of the councils will combine in one person the leadership of the executive committees also: Instead of a separation of power, it will in this way be conclusively usurped by one branch placed in the center by one bloc of political forces.

Another notable factor is the restoration by the Supreme Council to its exclusive possession of Communist Party property, expropriated from the people on this occasion. As its first order of business, parliament adopted a decree which proclaimed all state assets, including those that belonged to all-Union public organizations, located on the territory of the Republic of Crimea its property (except for the facilities not subject to privatization). Immediately following, entirely in the way of Communist Party traditions, it transferred to the books of the Supreme Council (to its ownership, that is to say) the entire complex of former nomenklatura, now foreign-currency, fitness center-resort establishments, fabulously profitable, of the southern shore: the Morye, Yuzhnyy, Rossiya, Foros, Ay-Danil, Nizhnyaya Oreanda, and Morskoy Priboy guest hotels and several state dachas, having expressed an intention to take away from Ukraine also the Gorbachevian Zarya, and from Yu. Meshkov, his residence, which is financed by Tatarstan, incidentally. A decree instituting under the auspices of parliament administration of the association of hotels of the Supreme Council has been adopted. Perhaps not in all things, but certainly in their appetites, the democrats surpassed their communists: The benefits that were enjoyed by the helmsmen of the entire vast Union have come to be at the disposal of 98 deputies, and a place in the sun earlier, we recall, came the way of both children and old people, what is more. Now, however, when the question of the allocation of one of the abovementioned hotels for the recuperation of veterans of the Great Patriotic War and Afghanistan arose, parliament considered that the comfortable apartments were not adapted for this contingent. They are intended, on the other hand, in the opinion of informed sources, for the needs of the coming privatization, which will conclusively divide Crimea into those with everything and the indigent.

It is not hard to understand that there are on the peninsula increasingly few supporters of such capitalism and increasingly more devotees of the communist regime. The local newspapers are publishing the penitent verses of folk poets, "Communists, forgive us idiots!" and Leonid Grach, leader of the Communist Party, which is now in Crimea the most populous party, and former first secretary of the Crimea Oblast party committee, who a year ago "failed" at the presidential elections, has been named, according to the data of a recent poll, the republic's most promising politician. All would be fine were the maturing coup to have, as the communists have promised, to have a "human face." But real power in Crimea, in the opinion of 60 percent of the respondents polled, and also according to the competent asseveration of President Yu. Meshkov, is in the hands of the mafia (precisely because it a member of the Communist Party in its entirety?). Sociologists of Crimea's Center for the Humanities maintain, commenting on the situation, that the mafia groupings of the Crimean peninsula differ in only three respects from the analogous associations of the island of Sicily. First, the local mafia does not belong to secret societies: Even children here know the number of criminal clans, the names of their leaders, their zones of influence, and so forth. Second, the Crimean mafiosi, as distinct from the overseas mafiosi, do not build residential apartments for the poor; they only blow them up. Third, whereas the intentions of the Italian Government to root out the mafia remain unsuccessful, the leadership of Crimea is not even making such attempts, in connection with which on the Apennine peninsula mafia bosses are, albeit periodically, brought to trial, but on the Crimean peninsula, suffer merely the latest decrees on the fight against them.

These are the achievements with which the Republic of Crimea has greeted the fourth anniversary of its rebirth and the first anniversary of the election of the first president, which at that time marked, Crimeans believed, an actual revolution, in which democracy had triumphed conclusively and irreversibly. Judging by the present alignment of forces, it is not entirely clear who is preparing a new putsch beneath the old flag and whether what is being conceived is really a coup or merely a strengthening of the positions that have already been captured by the emergent "neocommunists" by means of "Red terror" borrowed from their predecessors. Places in zones have been prepared, according to information of the Ukrainian newspaper NEZAVISIMOST, for all dissidents. The zones also, possibly, will be called something democratic, like free economic zones, for Crimeans, who have had more than their share of so-called democracy (essentially, oligarchy), cannot be intimidated by any communists.

Economic Issues

World Bank Official on Prospects of Further Aid

LD0802113295 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Summary] Kiev, 8 Feb—According to Basil Kowalsi, director of the World Bank's East European and Central Asian department, the international community actively supports Ukraine's reformist undertakings.

The main reason for Mr. Kowalski's visit to Ukraine is to analyze the country's economic transformation in order to determine which are the most promising areas that would qualify for financial support on the part of the World Bank. Today the talk is of the future financing and re-equipping of hydroelectric power stations, seed selection stations, and programs in the area of health care and telecommunications. The agency said that the World Bank has already granted Ukraine the first installment of aid, amounting to $150 million. It added that the next installment of $250 million will only be granted if Ukraine fulfills certain conditions. These are: satisfying the bank's demands for speeding up the process of privatization, further liberalizing foreign trade, reforming the agricultural sector, and ensuring the social protection of the population.

The World Bank has granted a total loan of $500 million to Ukraine directed at financing critical imports and supporting the balance of payments.

World Bank To Finance Thermal Power Plants

WS0702141595 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1010 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian Energy Ministry is preparing the necessary documents for obtaining World Bank credits in the amount of $500 million which will be used for modernizing Ukraine's thermal electric power plants. According to Ukraine's Energy Minister Vilen Semenyuk, the credits are expected to be granted toward the end of 1995.

The license for manufacturing the equipment which will be used at the thermal electric power plants will be purchased from a Western firm which will be chosen at a tender to be organized after the credits have been obtained. The license may cost up to $1 million.

The Ukrainian Energy Ministry's modernization plan involves choosing the Western technology that will allow for combustion of the poorest-quality coal without excessive atmospheric pollution. Experts from the World Bank have agreed to provide financial assistance to Ukrainian power engineers for modernizing Ukraine's 200- and 300-megawatt power generating units which are about 80 in all. The modernization project will begin with the power generating units at the Starobeshivsk and Kryvyy Rih power stations.

The Energy Ministry is considering offers from three American firms—Babcock & Willcocks, Combustion Engineering (an affiliate of the ABB international concern), and Foster Wheeler.

The ministry's experts say that the technology which ABB is offering is inferior to the ones being offered by the other two firms.

One of the conditions set by the World Bank is the creation of a joint-stock company on the basis of Ukrainian enterprises.

The Ukrainian Energy Ministry is also preparing documents for obtaining another World Bank credit in the amount of $100 million for the reconstruction of Ukraine's hydroelectric power plants.

The World Bank's main condition for providing the credits is reform of the Ukrainian electrical energy sector, a process which the Ukrainian Energy Ministry has embarked upon. The World Bank reconstruction credit will be committed to achieving the following objectives:

—extending the periods of exploitation of existing hydroelectric power plants;

—bringing existing hydroelectric power plants up to modern ecological standards;

—increasing the power-generating capacities of existing hydroelectric power plants by 250,000 kilowatts.

Masol on Fuel Price Increase, Relations With CIS

WS0702140395 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1010 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Kiev correspondent on Monday, February 6, Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol defended the recent increases in the prices of fuel and charges for public services.

Mr. Masol, who was speaking at a meeting with journalists from the Ukrainian state television, radio and UKRINFORM said that the fall in the value of the Ukrainian national currency had led to a situation where electricity and gas were being supplied to the population virtually free of charge.

He added that the decision to increase the price of fuel was taken on request from the Ukrainian ministries concerned and in accordance with the Ukrainian president's economic reforms program.

Mr. Masol said that the 20 percent increase was introduced because the government could no longer continue to subsidize all public services, adding that the increase in charges for public services will gradually climb to 60 percent by October this year. He, however, said that subsidies to citizens in the low-income bracket will be retained.

Commenting on the present socioeconomic situation in the country, he expressed the opinion that the crisis in Ukraine's relations with Russia—its biggest trading partner—had been overcome. He said that about 20 other agreements on issues involving communications, cultural exchanges, and the like will be signed with Russia in addition to the trade and economic agreement which was signed recently.

As the prime minister further disclosed, Ukraine, as of today, has signed trade and economic agreements with all countries of the former Soviet Union excluding Azerbaidjan and Kyrgyzstan. "These agreements will help recover lost contacts, as well as open new markets for Ukrainian products," he added.

Belarus

Lukashenka, Tajikistan's Karimov on 'Integration'

WS0702160395 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 4 Feb 95

[Report by L. Haroshka and Z. Simaha]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajik Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov was received today by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. They held talks touching upon a wide range of problems. Since the talks were of a confidential nature, we requested details immediately following the conclusion of these negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Lukashenka, in Russian] Processes of integration are now under way. These processes are actively initiated by Belarus.

Why am I interested in Tajikistan now? It is because they have began to implement a rational policy there. Their policy is rigid where necessary; they intervene and monopolize when necessary, as well as set enterprises free when necessary. This is something in harmony with our policy. This is not only in harmony, but similar to our policy. It is why I see that these people, as Uzbeks, are ready to fulfill agreements. We have agreed upon cotton supplies with Uzbekistan, and today cotton is on its way. A similar agreement may be achieved here. Next, working groups will go there. The final i's will be dotted by the presidents at a meeting in Tajikistan. I promised to go there long ago, but we somehow failed to accomplish this meeting. Today we agreed that our Foreign Ministries will determine the timing of the meeting, and we will dot the final i's. But trading with each other starts right away. We will begin to restore that level achieved in the former Soviet Union. This is our concept, our theory in negotiations and relations with all the republics—to attain that level. As for later developments, we will see.

[Karimov, in Russian] Our president and our people highly assess the activity of the Belarusian president and leadership in the sphere of integration among former USSR republics. You know, many of our actions have been undertaken following studies of President Lukashenka's experience, because we have felt that his point is in reforms, but controllable ones; reforms which do not allow our nations to be robbed. This fully corresponds to our understanding of today's problems. We asked today to support our Republic in its bid to join the customs union. We fully share the opinion about the need—and we will do everything possible—to restore the former economic ties. The main thing, in my opinion, is that our agreements will help our people, our long-suffering people, who are in a very difficult situation today and who have already ceased to trust anybody. I would like this meeting to infuse a droplet of optimism to the people, to impart to them that we, their leaders, are seeking to do everything possible to make them happier and more confident in their future. [end recording]

Tajik-Belarusian talks were also held on the governmental level. The Tajik and Belarusian prime ministers discussed issues of commercial and economic cooperation. Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, while welcoming the guests, expressed his hope that the talks will result in concrete joint cooperation. One must note that steps toward this end have already become reality. Mikhail Chyhir and Dzhamshed Karimov put their signatures on a protocol governing commercial and economic cooperation between both countries in 1995. The protocol announces that mutual relations of both countries will be developed on equal and mutually beneficial principles. Our Republic will supply Tajikistan with over $20 million worth of products, including rolled ferrous metals as well as products of the chemical, oil refining, machine tool, motor vehicle, tractor, and light industries. In its turn, Belarus will receive very necessary goods, such as aluminum and cotton as well as agricultural products.

Tajik Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov also visited the CIS headquarters today, where he held talks with CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya. They discussed urgent problems related to the upcoming CIS summit in Almaty.

Lukashenka Returns With Lithuanian Border Accord

LD0702220195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2000 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation headed by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, which had been on an official visit in Lithuania, returned home today. Lukashenka's visit resulted in unambiguously dotting all the i's in Belarus-Lithuanian relations.

In this case the most important document, the treaty on good neighborly relations and cooperation that will determine further prospects in mutual cooperation between the neighbors, has been signed. In addition, a treaty on establishing the state border between Lithuania and Belarus was signed.

Two agreements were signed. In the first Lithuania recognized as belonging to the Republic of Belarus the sanatorium "Belarus" in Druskininkai and allowed the Belarusian side to obtain lease on the corresponding plot. In accordance with the other agreement, Belarus hands over to Lithuania the so-called facility (?number 500) which regulates the water level in Lake Druskiai. Also, there was an agreement on the use of the power station "Druzhba Narodov" near Lake Drukskiai.

Rybkin on Chechen Conflict, Unification Process

WS0802115795 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Aleksey Bezveselnyy: "Ivan Rybkin: 'Taking Small Steps—to a Great Goal!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Undoubtedly, Belarusian-Russian relations have recently entered a new, more qualitative level. Otherwise, how could one explain such "solid" political interest in sovereign Belarus demonstrated by our closest neighbor? This year, Russian delegations headed by A. Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, and K. Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Matters, have already paid visits to Minsk, and at the end of last week, another parliamentary delegation headed by Russian State Duma Speaker I. Rybkin arrived here.**

The itinerary of the high Russian guests' two-day visit to our capital was quite intense—highest-level meetings and negotiations with President A. Lukashenka and parliament Speaker M. Hryb, I. Rybkin's address to the Belarusian parliamentarians, a visit to the CIS Executive Secretariat...

On the first day, during a visit to the National Press Center, State Duma Speaker I. Rybkin and his Belarusian colleague M. Hryb held a news conference with domestic and foreign journalists, in the course of which they were trying to provide exhaustive responses to all questions. Being unable to report on everything, I have decided to address only the most important and really significant aspects in the current status of bilateral relations between our fraternal states.

Parliament's Business Is To Cooperate

On Friday, I. Rybkin was a guest of the Belarusian parliamentarians, and delivered a short speech in the Oval Room during the 16th plenary session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. In his speech, the high-level guest made a little digression into the centuries-long history of relations between Russia and Belarus, and, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory, highly appreciated the heroic deeds of the Belarusian People during the Great Patriotic War. In conclusion, he noted that state leaders should come to agreements, and that parliament's business is to constructively cooperate and prepare a basis for new steps toward a mutual understanding. Namely this can be considered the goal of the Russians' current visit, which precedes an expected visit to Minsk in the last decade of February by B. Yeltsin, who is to sign a "great" treaty between the two states.

Leaders' Political Will Is Needed

During a news conference following his address in parliament, I. Rybkin termed the idea of holding, in the near future, a joint session of the Russian State Duma and Belarusian parliament on the unification of our states somewhat premature. He noted, however, that state leaders' political will is primarily needed for this important step. As of today, Ivan Petrovich said, a joint statement on good intentions and agreements concluded in Moscow on 6 January and initialed in Minsk on 24 January are enough.

"Much should spring from the economy," believes I. Rybkin as a supporter of the theory of historical determinism. "Namely the economy should prevail over politics. Therefore, there are more and more supporters of our countries' economic unification every day. Political questions are another matter."

About European Community and Events in Chechnya

I. Rybkin, as it proved, had been fighting for Russia's joining the European Council for a long time. If this had happened a few years ago, the current Chechen crisis would not have occurred... Its scale, by the way, is quite impressive. And although Ivan Petrovich did not specify the number of people who died there, he cited one figure—over the last three years, 200,000 people of various nationalities have had to escape from Groznyy to other CIS countries!

Chechen events, according to I. Rybkin, have highlighted yet another important side to cooperation in the military-political area. It proved that the Russian leadership was wrong in its forecasts that one can cope with similar problems unaided. However, Ivan Petrovich repeatedly emphasized that his current visit was not connected with the Chechen crisis, and that Russia is by no means trying to get its revenge in Minsk for the collapse of its national policy in Groznyy.

About Collective Security

As a result of the Chechen conflict, the high-level Russian guest stated, not only Russia's southern borders but also those of a great part of the CIS proved to be open to escalation of the armed conflict. Mercenaries from 12 countries worldwide have participated in combat actions in Groznyy. About 150 flights (via Russian airports) of various means of air transportation were conducted to Chechnya every month... The Russian side is to compile all these, as well as many other, facts in a "white book" to make it possible for the world community to learn the truth about who fought in Chechnya, and with whom...

The entire 1,000-year history of our common development, according to Rybkin, shows that, from time immemorial, our states have been helping each other defend themselves.

Following this, the Belarusian parliament speaker noted that although Belarus actually took a course toward economic integration with Russia from its first days, this by no means speaks of infringing upon our state's sovereignty, in terms of politics. Regarding our armed forces' more active participation in the CIS's system of collective security, M. Hryb noted that one must still consider this issue carefully (since even though an appropriate agreement has been signed, the Belarusian parliament has not ratified it so far).

Premier Criticized Over Accords With Russia

LD0702132195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1155 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Feb 7 (INTERFAX-WEST)—The Belarusian government has instructed the ministries and other central executive bodies to start implementing the block of Belarusian-Russian intergovernmental agreements, signed in Minsk on January 6 by Russia's Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov and Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir.

The Belarusian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to inform the Russian Foreign Ministry that the agreements on the customs union, on non-trade payments, on measures to ensure the mutual convertibility and stabilization of the Russian and Belarusian rubles, and on the basic principles of creating financial-industrial groups; the protocol on free trade without exemptions and limitations, and the package of military agreements specifying the status of the Gantsevichiy radar and the station for controlling the Russian nuclear submarines in the town of Vileyka, both of them Russia's strategically important facilities, have gone into effect.

Commenting on the Belarusian government decision, a leader of the opposition Belarusian People's Front and head of the Social-Democratic Party Oleg Trusov told INTERFAX-WEST that by taking such a decision Prime Minister Chyhir had exceeded his powers and violated the resolution of the Belarusian parliament, according to which the Russian troops must be removed from Belarus in 1996.

The block of agreements, signed on January 6, allows Russia to use the military facilities in Gantsevichiy and Vileyka during the next 25 years.

"Chyhir's decision to start implementing the Belarusian-Russian agreements bypassing the parliament is a violation of the law which must lead to the prime minister's resignation," said Trusov. He also said that if the parliament does not discuss this problem shortly, the opposition will collect 70 deputies' signatures required for lodging a suit to the Belarusian Constitutional Court.

Defense Minister on Army Reforms, Financial Problems

WS0802111195 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 28 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Rostikov: "Belarus Will No Longer Have 'A State Within a State'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A news conference held by Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka was attended not only but journalists, but also by military attaches of foreign embassies. It seems that those people will soon drop everything and try to cope with writing down all the information announced in conference rooms.**

The information, in principle, was not new. Touching upon the ongoing military reform, Colonel General Kastenka noted that, following the breakup of the USSR, the powerful Krasnoznamennyy Belarusian Military District—formerly including 12 tank divisions and, in total, numbering 243,000 troops, plus an additional 180,000 which included three missile divisions and troops of the Strategic Air Forces—became a basis for the creation of the Belarusian Army, which today comprises 96,000 armed troops and 64,000 workers and clerks.

The Republic, however, as it was explained, is not able to maintain them. Meanwhile, a purely mechanical reduction of the Armed Forces does not suit anybody today. The purpose of reforms in the Army is to create a system of national security. Even though we do not yet have an idea which type of armed forces we need, one thing is clear—the Army should be relieved of duties uncharacteristic of armed forces. The principle of a state within a state (this was just the army we had) today suits neither the political nor economic sides.

Even today the Army budget supports hundreds of military townships with 10,000 dwellings, 15 plants, 46 preschool institutions, the houses of officers, training centers, forest areas, and land plots. The Army should pay for everything—not only for land, but also for maintaining locksmiths, sanitary engineers, as well as teachers and nurses at kindergartens and nursery school. In the immediate future, the Armed Forces intend to transfer all this to the bodies of state and local authority. As of now, around 40 military townships with 8,000 dwellings have already been transferred there.

Great structural changes are coming. Troops of the air defense system are being reorganized. Created to protect a strategic grouping, today they are devoid of their previous purpose in connection with the withdrawal of missile divisions from Belarus. This is why a joint command of the air defense and air forces is being created. Quick response mobile troops will appear on the basis of the 103d airborne division.

As of today, military departments at higher educational institutions graduate about 1,700 officers, with demand for them not exceeding 100. The defense minister deems it an impermissible squandering "to graduate lieutenants who will never become senior lieutenants." Of course, this sphere will also undergo great changes, and many colonels will leave their cozy jobs at institutions of higher education.

Along with this, even today one feels the need to create a military academy. The education of higher officers requires large sums of hard currency. For example, one month of education at the Academy of Armored Troops costs between $900 and $1,000, one hour of flight of a trainee in a training aircraft—$10,000-$13,000. The Republic intends to prepare Army specialists—pilots, engineers, and military doctors—on its own.

The defense minister noted a tangible decrease in the number of crimes and other violations of the law in the Armed Forces. Nonetheless, there were 101 servicemen killed in the army under different circumstances in 1993, while in 1996—96.

Regarding the idea of forming a contract service army, there are slightly over 9,000 such servicemen. The meager salaries do not attract men to the Army. The defense minister's driver, who works on contract, earns around 160,000 [currency not specified]. How is one to earn a good salary if the Belarusian Armed Forces, as was clarified, receives fuel, payment in kind, foodstuffs, and many other things from commercial structures at commercial prices? For the time being, the situation is being saved by old depots of the Krasnoznamennyy Belarusian Military District, but they, as Anatoliy Kastenka said, will also soon be exhausted.

Moldova

Premier Sets Out Aims at Almaty Summit

LD0702164895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau February 7 TASS—"Moldova is vitally interested in the economic union, which is being created by the CIS member states, working at full capacity," Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli told ITAR-TASS. "I hope that the documents which we are going to examine at the CIS summit, due to be held in Almaty on February 10, will bring us closer to this goal."

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli will fly to the Kazakh capital on February 9 in the morning. The Moldovan government delegation is expected to discuss and sign all the documents, included in the agenda, with the exception of the agreement on the creation of an interstate relief fund for refugees. "The reason for it is that we did not sign the agreement on refugees and displaced persons, which was discussed at previous meetings," Stepan Lupashko, head of the public relations department of the Moldovan government, explained. Aside from the documents within the CIS framework, the Moldovan delegation is going to sign in Almaty bilateral trade and economic agreements for 1995 with some participants in the meeting. According to Stepan Lupashko, most probably it will be Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Decree Bans Assisting 14th Army Withdrawal

AU0702213895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 6/2/1995—Dniester President Igor Smirnov has signed a decree reading that "all ministries, state structures, enterprises and organizations, as well as physical persons, shall be absolutely prohibited to render any assistance in removing the Russian 14th Army's armaments, machinery and equipment."

The press secretary of the Dniester president and government, Yelena Yefimova, explained to INFOTAG that the document "is targeted on protecting the Dniester property, because the Russian-Moldovan Withdrawal Agreement was signed in a way that totally ignored the interests of Dniester."

In observers' opinion, the appearance of the decree is directly related to the activization of negotiations between Moldova and Russia concerning the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement. After the two sides completed one more round of withdrawal consultations on February 3, the Russian delegation leader Vladimir Kitayev said that, even without waiting for the entire package of withdrawal documents to be signed, Russia is planning to remove from Dniester two Engineer Brigades already in 1995.

Sources in the Dniester Government believe the decree is "a preventive measure aimed at not allowing the army to be removed from the left bank."

The decree entered into force as from the moment of signing. In near days it shall be published in the press, Yelena Yefimova said.

The Commander of the Russian 14th Army, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, has refused to comment the above Smirnov's decree aimed at hindering the Moldova-Russian Withdrawal Agreement signed on last October 21.

"I have my own opinion on the issue, and I have already voiced it. Smirnov's decree has not been published yet, and I do not know if it exists at all. I do not rule out that it could be 'experiments' of Smirnov's officers who wish to see the reaction. That is why I shall stay silent until I see the document with my own eyes," Lebed said.

Reaction to Smirnov Decree

LD0702203995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau February 7 TASS—"The decree on prohibition of withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army's property, which was issued by the leader of the Dniester region Igor Smirnov and published today, is unlawful," Moldovan First Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Osmocescu told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday [7 February].

Osmocescu is in charge of Moldovan delegation, which participates in the talks on the 14th Russian Army pull-out from the Dniester region.

According to him, this decree cannot stimulate establishment of legal relations between Moscow and Tiraspol.

"Property of the 14th Russian Army is property of the Russian Federation, and Moldova, including the people of the Dniester region, participated in its emergence," the Moldovan first deputy foreign minister pointed out.

We have concluded an agreement with the Russian party in order to define the scope of the part of this property, which is due to us. In accordance with the agreement, the movable property is to be divided in the following way: Russia gets 65 percent, Moldova - 35 percent. This ratio is, in our opinion, just, he explained.

In the future we will determine which part of the Moldovan share will be handed over to the local authorities of the Dniester region. The latter will, by the way, get the whole of the army's real estate, he added.

Chisinau To Broaden 'Tax Holiday' Experiment

LD0702213495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Snegur believes that tax policies should be reviewed every two years, the president's economic advisor Aleksandr Shcherbanskiy told Interfax in an exclusive interview.

He also said that a tax-holiday experiment involving 12 leading industrial enterprises, initiated by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, has produced its first results. Since the beginning of the experiment a month ago, these enterprises have increased their circulating capital, consolidated their material base, and launched production of new products in great demand in and outside Moldova.

The idea of the experiment is to free industrial enterprises from taxes for a period of time. Taxes are nonetheless collected every three months, however, due to the delay industrial enterprises have an opportunity to use the capital accrued to their best advantage.

"Tax policies should be shaped in such a way as to benefit the producer. Now only 30-40

of the republic's industrial potential is actually being used," he said.

He is convinced that if "a differentiated tax policy is introduced, industrial production will be much more efficient." In view of this, Chisinau is planning to broaden the tax-holiday experiment, applying it to other economic branches, including agriculture. He noted, however, that Moldova will no go beyond the limits of experiment, because "one can't violate the laws on income, VAT and excises."

If the experiment is a success, the president will submit proposals on cardinal changes in the tax policies to parliament, he said.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Sets Out Objectives of Almaty Summit

LD0802094595 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The future of the Commonwealth: What are the issues which the heads of states will address at the meeting in Almaty? Our correspondent reports on this.

[Correspondent] Almaty is preparing for a scheduled meeting of CIS heads of state due to take place on 10 February at the newly built residence of the president of Kazakhstan. The Russian-Kazakh agreements which preceded this meeting, at the level of both heads of state and heads of government, have made many people hope for rapid changes in the economy in daily life. The leaders of the CIS states are moving from general discussions about integration toward concrete steps.

[Begin recording] [President Nursultan Nazarbayev] There are no unusual documents there, if we don't count the general document which we are going to adopt on properly marking the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory. This means that the benefits, pensions, and opportunities which we grant to participants in the war and war invalids will be identical in all the states, and the celebrations must probably must be common ones, will held in Moscow; it also concerns how we will participate in this - the whole range of issues.

The second item is a document which I have submitted, called the pact on peace and accord on the territory of the CIS states.

I regard it as an important document. We must certainly end the bloodshed on CIS territory. And we must end it by our own efforts, if we are indeed a Commonwealth.

Let's not forget that at the last CIS meeting a special agreement was made, or rather adopted, on my Eurasian Union project. One would think everyone had forgotten about that. This stated that the main ideas of Nazarbayev's Eurasian Union draft will form the basis for the further development of the integration processes. We are now implementing step by step what we discussed then. [end recording]

Nazarbayev, CIS Secretary Discuss Summit Agenda

LD0802093795 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 February, President Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks with CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya, who arrived in Almaty.

During the meeting, some organizational matters relating to the forthcoming summit meeting of CIS heads of states and government on 10 February in the capital of our republic were discussed. Reporting the results of his exchange of views with the Kazakh head of state to a KAZTAG news agency correspondent, Ivan Korotchenya said that a great deal of work of both an organizational and a purely technical nature has been done, which will indisputably promote the success of the Almaty summit. The summit is intended to make another step—perhaps the greatest in the entire history of the CIS—toward intensifying and expanding integration processes between the CIS countries.

Ivan Korotchenya said the summit will take place in two stages. At 1000 [0400 GMT], a plenary meeting of the Councils of Heads of States and Government will begin. Then, after a short break, they will hold a joint meeting, ending in a ceremony to sign the joint documents. A news conference for journalists is also planned.

The CIS executive secretary provisionally divided the items on the agenda into three large economic groupings: first and foremost, the establishment of the Interstate Economic Council and its board is to be completed.

The second group should include consideration of a package of documents on defending the foreign borders of the CIS as a whole.

The third group of issues is bound up with the activities of the Collective Security Council.

Korotchenya said in conclusion that the agenda for the forthcoming meeting is a fairly full one, and at the moment it is hard to predict whether the heads of state and government will approve it in its entirety. But all of the issues put forward for the agenda are important and currently relevant for the CIS. That is why one really can hope that none of them is placed in a separate file and postponed until the next summit.

Defense Minister Discusses Cooperation in India

MM0702164095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[Report from "Own Information," ITAR-TASS column: "Visit to Delhi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakhstan Defense Minister Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov has visited Delhi.

The schedule for the trip envisaged a visit to India's military training establishments, including the Air Force Academy at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), and also meetings with M. Mallikargun, Indian minister of state for defense; Chief Marshal of Aviation S.K. Kaul [name as transliterated], chairman of the Indian Joint Chiefs of Staff and commander in chief of the Air Force; and R.P. Bkhatia [name as transliterated], minister of state for external affairs. The sides generally discussed the prospects for bilateral military cooperation, including on questions of training and retraining servicemen.

Kyrgyzstan

International Observers Note Election Violations

LD0702223995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1947 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Feb 7 (Interfax)—International observers who attended parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan have registered some violations in their procedure. The statement was made for journalists in Bishkek Tuesday [7 February] by representative of the US International Democratic Institute John Keren.

Attending the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on February 5 were over 70 representatives of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Confidence in Europe], as well as those from the United States and from countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, including Russia.

According to Keren, "an attempt of one person to vote for the whole family was a typical violation." He said that during the unsealing of ballot boxes and during the counting of votes, observers found "extra" papers, which did not correspond to the number of registered voters.

Keren believes that the violations took place mainly due to the fact that the Kyrgyz law is "vague" and the procedure of holding elections and election campaign is absent in it.

Electors Vote for Well-Known Political Figures

LD0702214695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 7 Feb 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first results of the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan show that "people cast their votes for well-known figures, irrespective of their political bias, most of them being the pride of the regions where they were born, where they became candidates and where they were supported as fellow countrymen, not as representative of political parties," Head of the Kyrgyz government's Information and Analytical Service Azim Ibraimov told Interfax.

He said that out of the 13 newly elected deputies, 10 are "prominent figures well known in Kyrgyzstan and abroad", among them outstanding writer Chinghiz Aitmatov, two former communist leaders of the Brezhnev and Gorbachev eras Turdakun Usubaliyev and Absamak Masaliyev, and also the first vice premier, the minister of justice and a prominent surgeon.

Ibraimov believes that the election of former communist leaders to the new parliament "does not mean that the communists may win a victory and shape a majority." The real alignment of political forces, "to be more exact, the regional clan groups, will be seen after the second round to be held on February 19," he said.

He also said that the most important thing was to avoid the appearance of criminal and shadow figures in parliament. As to representatives of various political and regional groups, their presence in parliament is normal, he said. IF Note: The Central Electoral Commission reports that by Monday evening, 72.8 percent of the electors had come to the polling stations. A total of 1,054 candidates competed for 105 seats in parliament, including 35 in the Legislative Assembly and 70 in the House of People's Representatives. As many as 161 candidates, most of them communists represented the 12 political parties registered in the republic. The rest were representatives of local administrations, business circles, independent candidates and representatives of public organizations.

According to the latest information, two deputies have been elected to the legislative assembly and 11 to the House of People's Representative. The second round will take place in two weeks in the 90 electoral districts in which none of the candidates has scored the required number votes.

Tajikistan

UN Envoy on Extension of Afghan-Tajik Cease-Fire

LD0702223795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1947 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Head of the UN mission in Tajikistan Liviu Botha assessed positively the decision by the official Dushanbe and the Tajik opposition on extending the agreement on ceasefire on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the republic.

In an interview with Interfax Tuesday [7 February] he said that in the current situation it is possible to extend the mandate for the presence of 40 UN military observers in Tajikistan, who are monitoring the implementation of the agreement on temporary ceasefire. According to Botha, the decision on extending or annulling the mandate will be taken at the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks.

Botha voiced the hope that the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks will take place shortly, however, he did not name the date nor the venue.

The decision on extending the agreement on ceasefire, which expired on February 6, was taken by the two sides in late January. Earlier, it was expected that the agreement would be extended at the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks in Moscow.

The opposition refuses to hold them in Moscow until the Russian side returns the arms captured at opposition warehouses in Gorno Badakhshan (autonomous region in southern Tajikistan) and removes the checkpoints at the Kalaikum-Khorog road and until Russian border guards recognize the ceasefire agreement. For its part, Dushanbe, believes the opposition, should recall the republic's interior servicemen, who were sent to Badakhshan, contrary to the agreement.

Dudayev Commandos Said Planning Acts of Terror

LD0702142595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe February 7—Tajikistan's law enforcement bodies take extra measures to ensure the safety the Russian Embassy staffers. Guards of the embassy installed in Hotel Oktyabrskoye in central Dushanbe have been increased.

According to a reliable source, the measures are connected with information about plans of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's commandos, who penetrated Tajikistan's territory, to stage a series of acts of terror against staffers of the Russian Embassy.

The Russian Embassy declined to give comment.

Antigovernment Leaflets Distributed in Kusangir Region

LD0702131995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Anti-government leaflets in Tajikistan were discovered Monday [6 February] in the Kusangir region of Tajikistan (250 kilometers to the south of Dushanbe, near the Afghan border), Interfax was told Tuesday by the Tajik Security Ministry.

The leaflets signed by the commander of the Tajik armed opposition Rizvon Sodirov urge the local population to engage in civil disobedience, to boycott all decisions of the national and local authorities, to support the "holy" war of the opposition against the present regime and the unfaithful.

A ministry representative said that an investigation has been launched and persons spreading the leaflets are being sought out.

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat Opposes Joint CIS Military Forces

LD0702184095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9-10 February a session of CIS heads of state and government will be held in Almaty. On 25 January CIS foreign ministers discussed and approved the draft agenda of the Almaty summi[illegible] Turkmen delegation participated in the Moscow ses[illegible]o.

As always, Turkmenistan's position on the proposals from different delegations is based on the priority of bilateral relations inside the CIS. As President Saparmurad Niyazov has stressed more than once, Turkmenistan regards and continues to regard the CIS as a consultative body for drawing up framework agreements, within which the instruments of bilateral and, on condition of complete voluntariness, multilateral decisions may be determined and made concrete. It is typical in this connection that Turkmenistan, on the whole, supports the signing in Almaty of the document on maintaining peace and stability in the CIS but, at the same time, on the issue of the agreement on a mutual concept for guarding external frontiers with border troops of CIS member- countries, it adheres to the sovereign right to resolve the problem of guarding its frontiers with its own forces together with the federal border service of the Russian Federation on the basis of the corresponding document signed previously.

Turkmenistan sees the question of creating joint CIS peacekeeping forces from the same point of view. Ashgabat, at least for the near future, does not see the necessity for its military forces to participate in any international military formations, whether within the CIS or any other organizations. Because, first of all, it goes against the military doctrine adopted and approved by the supreme legislative body of the country, which establishes the principal function of the Turkmen Army as protecting the country from external aggression. Second, the participation of Turkmen military units in solving the internal problems of other states contradicts the foreign policy concept of Turkmenistan, which is based on noninterference and adherence to solving conflicts using peaceful and political means.

As a whole, as it seems, the understanding is growing among the leaders of CIS countries that the creation on the territory of the former USSR of a certain new union with supra-national structures with a single regulating and controlling center, at least for the present, is not realistic and is hardly expedient. The more so as there are enough examples here of effective and fruitful bilateral cooperation between CIS countries. Among such examples are Turkmen- Russian, Turkmen-Ukrainian, and Turkmen-Kazakh relations, which have received an enormous stimulus recently. Turkmenistan shows these countries, as it does all CIS members without exception, friendliness and readiness for cooperation. Ashgabat hopes that this kind of approach, based on the principles of equality, voluntariness, and good-neighbourliness, will prevail at the forthcoming Almaty summit meeting.

Ashgabat Seeks Cooperation With Afghanistan

LD0702174995 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1505 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time a direct telephone communications line has been laid between Turkmenistan and the northwest provinces of Afghanistan. Two international channels from Ashgabat and Mary to

Herat have been set up as a result of the joint work of communication workers from the neighboring countries.

The establishment of telephone communications with Afghanistan is one of the areas of development of good-neighborly Turkmen-Afghan relations, in particular, in border regions. In accordance with current agreements, Turkmen electricity is supplied to Herat, Turkmen oil workers render technical assistance to the Afghan oil and gas department, and Turkmen specialists are carrying out work on the construction of the Kerki-Imamnazar road, where a cargo and passenger crossing point at Imamnazar-Akina is being built. Bilateral trade and economic cooperation is being expanded. All this is aimed at implementing the state policy toward Afghanistan, the border with which must become the border of Turkmen-Afghan friendship, as President Saparmurad Niyazov put it.

Israeli Firm To Develop Agricultural Projects

LD0702173995 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1503 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel firm Merhav has opened a credit line of $15 million. It intends to implement three investment projects in 1995 in Turkmenistan with this money. The largest of them is the construction of a dairy complex, which includes a central farm and 14 branches, on the territory of Gyaverskiy and Ashkhabadskiy districts. A total of 350 cows of the Israel-Holstein breed will be brought there. It is planned to create a feeds base as part of the complex on an area of 350 hectares.

In 1995 the construction of a hothouse farm will also be started near Ashgabat which will provide vegetables to the capital. Over two years the Israeli firm will supply it with seeds and packing materials. Merhav has also announced its active participation in the implementatin of the Zerno program. Thirty granaries with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each will undoubtedly help in solving the problem of providing the country with its own bread.

The Israeli firm is already well-known in Turkmenistan for its produce. The first shipment of antibiotics, vaccine, and other veterinary products (worth a total of $5 million) at the end of last year were quickly distributed among the country's livestock farms. They are continuing to arrive this year.

Agreement Reached on Caspian Sea Fishing

LD0502223795 Tehran IRNA in English 2210 GMT 5 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb. 6, IRNA—...Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan reached an agreement in determining the fishing territory in the Caspian Sea up to 20 miles of their coasts in a meeting on Saturday in Ashgabat allocated to investigation of explotation methods of ecological resources in the Caspian Sea held by the representatives of all four countries.

The representative board of Azarbaijan however said in opposition that the matter should be investigated and gone under agreement after the new legal regimen of the Caspian Sea is clarified.

The four countries also agreed upon the place and the date of the signing of relevant documents through diplomatic channels.

A committee will form once a year in any of the Caspian Sea coastal countries to supervise the execution of the said agreement.

Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan reached agreement on an article that was left abandoned from their first meeting in Ashgabat in 1993 related to fishing and preservation and rational usage of the Caspian Sea ecological resources.

Government Agency Prospects for New Oil, Gas

LD0702173395 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1502 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first group of geologists of the Lebashgeofizika expedition has begun seismic surveys of a new structure to be deep drilled for oil and gas in the Koshkgala area near the Kyzylkum desert. With the help of computers and modern seismic surveying equipment the geologists are to evaluate the prospects of the new deposit.

The concept for the development of the oil and gas industry proposed by the Turkmen president relies on the development of new promising areas in order to ensure an increase in prospected oil and gas deposits. The workers on the expedition are making a major contribution to the implementation of the important state program. Their seismic groups are carrying out a comprehensive exploration of five new structures in the Karakum and Kyzylkum deserts today. They are all of great interest and will be prepared for deep drilling this year. The drilling of prospecting wells is currently underway at three new structures—Chayyrly, Taylik, and Severniy Shirinkuduk that have been handed over by the geologists for further development. They have been replaced by the prospectors for mineral resources of Lebapnefteburgaz that carries out prospecting work at gas deposits all over the country.

Uzbekistan

Edict Increases Salaries, Pensions, Grants

LD0702211895 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Edict by President Karimov on increasing the size of salaries, pensions, benefits, and grants; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. It is established that as of 1 March 1995, on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan the minimum wage is 150 soms per month and the minimum occupational pension 430 soms per month; the first 200 soms of citizens's incomes are not liable to tax and the minimum wage for the lowest category on the common wage scale is 300 soms per month.

2. From 1 March 1995, the current size of salaries, starting with the first category, and the size of all kinds of pensions, except the minimum pension, are to be increased on average by 350 soms a month including compensatory payments to the population of 150 soms.

3. Taking into account that grants are not liable to income tax, from 1 March 1995 the basic size of grants to students of higher, secondary specialized, and professional-technical educational institutions are to be increased by 300 soms including compensation of 150 soms.

4. From 1 March 1995 the monthly compensatory payments to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan are to be cancelled.

5. It is established that as of 1 March 1995 child benefit given to mothers until their children reach two years of age is to be 250 soms, benefits to disabled people from birth are to be 400 soms per month, and benefits to aged and disabled citizens who have not worked the necessary period of time are to be 300 soms per month.

6. From 1 March 1995 all kinds of additional payments to salaries, as well as benefits to families with children and other payments that are calculated as a percentage of the minimum wage are to be carried out in accordance with the minimum wage established by this edict.

7. The Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ministries, departments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the local administrations of regions and the city of Tashkent, and budget-funded organizations and institutions are to ensure the timely recalculation of pensions, benefits, grants, and wages of workers in line with this edict.

8. Expenses connected with increasing the wages of workers of budget-funded organizations and institutions, pensions, benefits, and grants are to be covered from the republic's state budget and the Social Security Fund.

9. Self-financing enterprises and organizations are to increase wages out of their own sources of incomes ensuring the increase of the minimum wage established by this edict.

10. The edicts the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 940 of 31 August 1994, No. 976 of 31 October 1994, and Paragraph 4 of Article 1 in the section on the size of benefits of the edict by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 871 of 16 June 1994 are to be considered null and void.

11. The Cabinet of Ministers is instructed within 10 days to pass a resolution implementing the present edict.

[Signed] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Tax Changes Explained by Officials

LD0602173295 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 4 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] What taxes are we going to pay this year, and why?

As will be recalled, the edict by President Islam Karimov of 30 November 1994 on the main areas for increasing the incentive role of taxes in the Republic of Uzbekistan defined a reduction in the tax burden on legal persons as one of the main conditions for reforming the tax system. [passage omitted]

In short, all the changes taking place in the taxation system are appropriate to the economic and social changes being implemented in the republic.

But what awaits the taxpayer this year? What are the guidelines? In order to help taxpayers get to grips with all the changes that the tax reform entails, without wasting their time, a roundtable meeting was held at the NARODNOYE SLOVO editorial office. It was attended by Zhorilla Khayrullayevich Abdullayev, head of the legal persons taxation office, Rustam Nazirovich Ahmedov, head of the natural persons taxation office, and Aydarbek Ahmetovich Ahmetov, head of the taxation office for the use of natural resources. Also taking part were representatives from the republic's major taxpaying legal persons: Valentina Vasilyevna Fomina, head accountant at Tashkent's Chkalov Aircraft Production Corporation, and Galina Ivanovna Tolochko, head accountant at Yuldiz, an open-type joint stock company in Tashkent.

[Unidentified correspondent] Zhorilla Khayrullayevich, there is now a clear trend for the relative proportion of indirect taxes to gradually fall within our taxation system. How is this manifesting itself in specific terms?

[Abdullayev] Let us first of all bid farewell to those taxes that disappear this year. Under the president's edict, from 1 January this year the tax on raw resources and products exported from the republic was abolished, the tax on the wages fund of collective farms was abolished—as collective farmers will now pay income tax like any other citizen—and the levying of revenue from forestry ended. From now on the 20 percent amortization payment remains entirely at enterprises' disposal and can be used for technical re-equipment, modernization of the production process, and so on.

As for the trend for the relative proportion of indirect taxes to fall gradually, here is a graphic example: The rate of value added tax has been cut again from 20 to 18 percent. Two years ago, as you know, in 1992 it was 30 percent. Today our VAT rate is the lowest in the CIS. This is in fact one of the ways of intensifying the incentive effect of taxes, where enterprises' economic potential is bolstered and the cost price of goods, work, and services is reduced.

[Correspondent] One of the most important trends in reforming the taxation system is the transition to taxing enterprises' profits. As all over the world, we will now levy a corporation tax, which is really a tax on profits. What will this do?

[Abdullayev] The transition to taxing enterprises' profits will make it possible to avoid dual taxation on wages—once in the form of payments by the enterprise and again in the form of payments by physical persons, i.e. as income tax.

The method used for calculating this tax meets international standards for calculating corporation tax. This is particularly important for encouraging foreign investments and for concluding agreements with other countries on avoiding dual taxation of profit.

The profit tax has a ceiling rate of 38 percent. It can, however, be adjusted, a measure intended to stimulate the development of production and increase physical production volumes. Specifically, for every one percent of growth in production volume, expressed in comparable prices against the same period the previous year, the rate is reduced by 0.3 percent. Suppose an enterprise produced 100 tractors last year and made 150 over the same period this year. That means that it has increased its physical production volume by 50 tractors. The rate of profit tax levied on this enterprise is cut in conformity with the growth of production in line with a special calculation used for this.

In addition, if an enterprise uses between 30 and 50 percent of its balance profits to develop, reconstruct, or technically re-equip its production process, then the rate is cut by 5 percent, in other words profit tax drops to 33 percent. The state thus encourages the producers' desire to develop their production process and use advanced technology. If half of the balance profits are spent on these purposes the cut in the rate reaches 10 percent, the tax rate falling to 28 percent accordingly.

Under the presidential edict the existing procedures for exemption from taxation and for granting tax breaks to newly established enterprises are continued. In addition to the privileges that already exist, 50 percent of the funds that an enterprise or organization (regardless of its form of ownership) spends on housing, social, and cultural construction out of its own profits are freed from tax.

A tax break system is stipulated for agricultural enterprises. If their profit rate does not exceed 40 percent, a tax rate of three percent will be imposed on them, the rate rising to 20 percent if their profit rate is higher.

Taking the seasonal nature of agricultural work into account, agricultural enterprises have to make advance payments only four times a year, and another payment to settle their annual account once a year. For example, if an agricultural enterprise has balance profits of 300,000 soms for the whole year and a profit rate of 15 percent, the profit tax will work out at three percent. In addition, it is stipulated that all the income tax benefits, which also extend to profit tax, should be maintained: For the development of agriculture, the production of consumer goods, and the development of new forms of ownership, above all private ownership and small enterprises.

It should also be noted that with a view to encouraging development of agricultural production, its output is free of VAT, property tax, and transport tax.

Alongside the reduction in VAT and the introduction of profit tax, emphasis is being placed on resource-saving taxes. Specifically, from 1 January 1995 the rate of property tax for enterprises has increased from one to two percent. Enterprises must make rational use of their capital, material, and circulating assets. In any highly-developed country, technology, machinery, and equipment never stand idle; they are always running, otherwise the owner may simply become bankrupt.

The edict envisages the taxation of wages funds when these exceed the set norm. The level of the wages fund, which is included in production costs and not subject to tax is set at four times the minimum wage. This gives enterprises the chance to choose for themselves whether to channel funds into production development and be set an adjusted, reduced tax rate, or else to channel them into consumption, in other words the wages fund. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] A new type of tax has appeared in 1995—a tax on the use of underground resources. To what purpose was it introduced?

[Ahmetov] Payment for the use of underground resources, like that for using water, is designed to produce more rational and comprehensive utilization of these resources, which are national riches and the exclusive property of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The rate of tax on using underground resources is lower than in other CIS countries. For example, the extraction of natural gas in Uzbekistan is taxed at five percent of sale price, whereas the rate in Russia is 16 percent; and coal mining is taxed at two percent of sale price, whereas in Russia the figure is six percent. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Karabakh Position Set Out at Moscow Negotiations

NC0702143395 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0820 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG", "HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" dailies), 02/07/95—Three-day negotiations for peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict started in Moscow on February 6.

The delegations, which arrived from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Mountainous Karabakh, will discuss problems concerning activities to be carried out by international observers, and strengthening of the present cease-fire regime. ITAR-TASS reports that, according to experts, this will strengthen the current situation and bring the sides closer to the next stage of signing a final agreement. A special stress was made that the economy of the sides is decaying, therefore they are not able to carry out military operations and resolve the conflicts by military force. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the negotiations may be low, if ambition and unwillingness to accept the advice of those who speak for stopping the war in the region prevail.

According to the spokesperson of RA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Ministry Aram Safaryan, the Armenian delegation consists of the Councillor General of the RA president Zhirayr Liparityan and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vardan Voskanyan. Chairman of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Department of Information and Press Maksim Hovhannisyan said that the delegation of Mountainous Karabakh is represented by the RMK Minister of Foreign Affairs Arkadi Ghukasyan and his deputy Valeri Atajanyan. He added that the Karabakh has set a line of very concrete conditions, concerning the problem of Lachin, security guarantees, etc. He believes that it is not possible "to embrace everything at once", and it is necessary to look consistently for solutions concerning the final agreement on the Karabakh conflict. He added that in the current state, when Azerbaijan does not guarantee security of the Armenian population of the RMK, these negotiations in Moscow will not be lasting.

Karabakh Spokesman Reiterates Stance on Conflict

NC0702141295 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0820 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily), 02/07/95—The main sources of contradictions between the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh [RMK] and Azerbaijan are territories, controlled by the armed forces of RMK and the political status of the second Armenian state.

According to latest information from Baku, the Azeri authorities still demand "to immediately withdraw Karabakh forces from the Azeri districts, including Shusha and Lachin", as a preliminary condition for the success of negotiations. Azeri President Geydar Aliyev said this to the co-chairmen of OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Minsk Group Anders Bjorner and Vladimir Kazimirov, his speech was shown on the Baku TV on February 5.

RMK Presidential spokesperson Aleksander Grigoryan presented the position of the Karabakh republic concerning the mentioned problems: "RMK steps forward in support of the efforts of the international community, particularly OSCE and Russian Federation, which are currently directed to strengthening the cease-fire in the conflict zone. Stepanakert believes that, first of all, military-technical problems should be resolved, by stationing international disengagement forces, and only then the discussion of purely political aspects should start. Concerning the problem of territories, which remain subject of permanent attention of the Azeri authorities—we believe that this problem is also of political nature, and therefore it should be discussed under the general context of political resolution."

Nagorno-Karabakh's Kocharyan Sets Up Security Council

NC0702184495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1409 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 07/02/95 NOYAN TAPAN—According to Karabakh sources, on February 7 the Karabakh President Robert Kocharyan issued a decree setting up President's Security Council. According to the decree the Council is made up of the President of the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh [MKR], Parliament Chairman, Prime Minister, Defense Minister, Foreign Minister, Interior Minister and the Chief of MKR's Directorate on National Security.

Electricity Cut Off Due to Nonpayments

NC0702190095 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1124 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text]07/02/95 NOYAN TAPAN—"As of 01.01.95 the total debt for energy constituted 8 billion drams",- this was reported by the head of the Department of Economy of the state concern "Armenergo" Gevorg Aghekyan on February 6. The population defrays only 8 percent of the used electric power. Because of non-payments "Armenergo" is not able to purchase the necessary amount of gas and, according to Aghekyan, Turkmenistan is likely to cease the gas supply to Armenia soon. In compliance with the decision of "Armenergo", all industrial companies and housing estates, which had debts for the used energy, have been shut off. Only enterprises, which have no debts, the life-support establishments and defense and pump stations are functioning today.

Aghekyan said that this measure has not yielded the noticeable results, however, the saving-banks already receive the payings for electric power. Asked how long is this measure to last Aghekyan answered: "Any commodity must be defrayed and why should the electric power be free of charge. There is no differentiated approach because it is impossible to cut off a part of a house. Only drastic measures will help us to struggle against the problem of non—payments". Aghekyan emphasized the necessity of adopting a bill "On struggle against the embezzlement of electric power."

Further on Electricity Problems

NC0702185595 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1038 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 07/02/95 NOYAN TAPAN—At February 6 regular session of the Deputy Assembly (DA) deputy Albert Baghdasaryan, the representative of the faction "Deputy Assembly", who presided over the session, commented on the stirring question.

As is known, the consumers owe 10 billion drams for electric power, 8 of which are the debt of the enterprises. According to Government's decision, at first the energy supply was ceased to some regions of Armenia and then to the consumers of Yerevan, including hospitals (according to Baghdasaryan's information).

The deputy reported that this decision and its implementation displeased the population, which "is fraught with undesirable consequences". He also reported, citing some sources, that at the special session of the Presidium of the Government, which took place two days ago, it was determined to revise their decision and to resume the electric power supply during two hours dayly.

It was stated that this decision concerns also the ceasing of the water supply of the regions, which have not paid off for the water. In this connection the Deputy Assembly resolved to appear in parliament with joint statement.

Yerevan Cut Off Since 3 Feb

NC0702135395 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0820 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 02/07/95—The supply of electric power to the population of Yerevan and to the majority of districts stopped starting February 3. Thus, the population has received no electric power for four days.

According to the Chairman of the "Armenergo" state enterprise, this was a forced measure, since the producers of power are not being paid for the services provided. Particularly, users were to pay about 1 bln. [billion] drams in January, but they only paid 20 mln. [million]

Electric power has been switched for two hours Sunday [5 February] evening. During this period, state TV has announced several times the appeal of "Armenergo" to the population, to immediately pay the debt. The problem of the debt for power has aggravated starting last December, when the energy network was no more subsidized by the State, and the price for electric power grew eight times.

Dissident Deputies Consider Rejoining Supreme Council

NC0702145595 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0928 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 07/02/95 (NOYAN TAPAN)—On February 6, a regular session of the "Deputy Assembly" took place, during which the question of the participation of its members in the work of the Armenian Supreme Council was discussed. It was decided that simultaneously with the Supreme Council's session on February 13 the session of the Deputy Assembly will be held, in the course of which the question of participation in the work of the Parliament, the sphere of the discussed questions and bills as well as the conditions of participation will be cleared up.

Manukyan Elected Chairman of National Democratic Union

NC0702145395 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0928 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 07/02/95 (NOYAN TAPAN)—At February 4 congress of the National-Democratic Union Vazgen Manukyan, the founder of the committee "Karabakh", one of the founders of the Party Armenian National Movement, then of the Party National-Democratic Union, the former Prime Minister of Armenia and the former acting Defense Minister was elected the Chairman of the Party National-Democratic Union.

Georgia

Gali Rayon, Scene of 'Cleansing' Operation, Tense

LD0702182795 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zugdidi [no dateline as received]—The situation in Gali rayon remains tense. Instances of excesses carried out against the Georgian population in the rayon have been registered. Several days ago a so—called "cleansing" operation of the Georgian population was carried out. Humanitarian aid in Zugdidi is being distributed stage by stage.

Abkhaz Foodstuffs Shortage Blamed on Separatists

LD0702210895 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Statement issued by Georgian Cabinet of Ministers]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the Abkhaz separatist government in Sukhumi have recently circulated reports through the mass media that currently, the

Abkhaz population is experiencing a shortage of foodstuffs and vital commodities, especially bread products.

The separatist leaders are attributing the situation to the reinforcement of the border control between Russia and Abkhazia, saying that no cargo has come through Abkhazia for two months. The Abkhaz side demands that the border with Russia be reopened.

In connection with this situation, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia states that the current situation in Abkhazia, including a shortage of food supplies, has been caused not by sealing off the border along the Psou river [along the Abkhaz-Russian border] but by the destructive policy of Ardzinba's regime.

The Georgian Government stresses that every citizen of Abkhazia, irrespective of their nationality, is a subject of the Republic of Georgia. Proceeding from the abovementioned, we have tried many times to resolve the problems of supplying Abkhazia's population with vital commodities, but the separatist leaders have always hindered the implementation of this program.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia are ready to render help, including humanitarian help, to the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia provided that: favorable circumstances are provided for rendering assistance; and the refugees return to their homes and their security is guaranteed, which answers the interests of both Georgia and the Russian Federation.

Georgia, Abkhazia Start New Round of Negotiations

LD0702145395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 7 Feb 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva February 7 TASS—Georgia and Abkhazia today opened another round of talks on the political status of Abkhazia and on refugees. The talks are being held in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations and with the assistance of Russia.

The head of the Georgian delegation Dzhaba Ioseliani said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS that he did not expect much from this round of talks given the unyielding position of the Abkhazian side.

The main contradiction arises from different approaches to the future status of Abkhazia—should it become an autonomy within Georgia, part of a confederation or an independent republic?

The Abkhaz delegation leader Sokrat Dzhindzholia told ITAR-TASS that "we expect a positive outcome only if we keep moving ahead along the path of political settlement on the basis of principles set forth in the statement dated April 4, 1994. The most important clause in that statement is the call to create a union in which Georgia and Abkhazia would be equal component parts".

The search for a specific formula of a union is proceeding with great difficulty, hampered by mutual mistrust which the sides have accumulated over the years of the conflict.

Georgia insists on its territorial integrity within the internationally recognised borders. Its stance on this is backed by the United Nations and Russia. The other side proceeds from Abkhazia's sovereignty and strives for securing the republic's rights in the proposed union. Neither Georgian parliament member Dzhaba Ioseliani nor Abkhaz cabinet head Sokrat Dzhindzholia thinks that the events in Chechnya have affected the negotiating process on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. "These two problems must not be confused," the Abkhaz delegation leader told ITAR-TASS.

The Geneva talks are attended by Eduard Brunner, a special envoy of the U.N. secretary-general in Georgia, and Russian ambassadors at large Gennadiy Fedosov and Feliks Kovalev, as well as by Dezso Horvath, an official of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Although Georgia and Abkhazia have been holding negotiation in this format since November 1993, the sides continue to differ considerably on a number of points. The return of refugees to the Gali district is proceeding very slowly due to numerous obstacles. Nonetheless, despite the difficulties, all parties to the talks agree that the Geneva negotiating process remains the only alternative to war.

The round which opened today is expected to last up to February 9.

Abkhazia Accuses Georgia of Peace Process Rejection

LD0702163195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1433 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sukhumi, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—Georgia's secessionist region of Abkhazia has accused Georgia of unwillingness to continue the peace process.

Georgia's government "does not seek a nonviolent settlement of the conflict, fails to take necessary measures to cut short the criminal actions of sabotage groups, despite repeated appeals by the Abkhazian side and the command of the (Russian) peacekeeping force in Abkhazia," the breakaway province's government said in a statement issued on Tuesday [7 February] in response to the death on Monday of a Russian peacekeeper and an assault made the same day on Abkhazian police, "crimes committed by Georgian sabotage groups shortly before the next round of Abkhazian-Georgian negotiations in Geneva."

The Abkhazian government protested against "continuing actions which destabilize the situation in the region."

Russian soldier Aleksey Romanov was fatally wounded in Abkhazia's Gali District as a truck in which he was traveling came under fire from ambush. He died in a Sukhumi hospital on Monday. On Monday evening an Abkhazian police detail also fell into an ambush in the same district, three policemen being gravely wounded.

Last autumn two Russian officers were ambushed and shot dead in Gali District.

Shevardnadze: 'Other Ways' of Tackling Abkhaz Issue

LD0702130495 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze has told journalists that the deployment of Russian peace-keeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone has not justified itself so far. In his opinion, unless the process of refugee return is completed within the period of the Russian peace-keepers' mandate, the Georgian side will have to start looking at other ways of resolving the Abkhaz problem.

Shevardnadze Addresses Opening Session of Parliament

LD0702224095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1947 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Feb 7 (INTERFAX)—The first sitting of the Georgian parliament's spring session was opened Tuesday [7 February] in Tbilisi, reports our Interfax correspondent. Opening the sitting, head of the state and parliament chairman Eduard Shevardnadze made a short summary of the situation in the country.

Shevardnadze declared that despite the protracted crisis last year, Georgia had "made positive moves which were primarily dramatic in the stabilization of the political situation."

Shevardnadze presented to the deputies a list of 84 draft decrees which should be adopted in the first turn and called on the parliament to make law-making work more active. He recalled that during the last session the parliament was to adopt 42 decrees but has adopted less than half of them.

The parliamentary opposition sharply criticized Shevardnadze's statement and described it as a "surface" review of the situation presented by the head of state. According to the opposition, "a deep analysis of the crisis was not made deliberately because it would present the clumsy actions of the leaders in an unattractive light." Representatives of the parliamentary majority disagreed with this judgment and reported that an analytical review of the situation in the country printed on 63 pages was handed over to all deputies before the sitting.

At their evening sitting deputies started considering one of the most acute issues, that of the events of January 13 when power structures prevented the so called "march against Abkhazia" and detained about 400 members of the illegal armed formation under the command of former defense minister Tengiz Kitovani.

Addressing the sitting the republic's attorney general Dzhamlet Babilashvili declared that despite warning from official authorities, Kitovani, Sigua, and others started creating illegal armed formations actually under the auspices of the political organization Front of National Liberation. Babilashvili reported that they contained criminal elements. As he said, "the march against Abkhazia" had the aim to destabilize the situation in the country. He reported that 344 of 387 members of these formations who were detained on January 13 have been released. The rest of them, including Kitovani, are being kept in custody and an investigation is under way.

Deputies representing the opposition demanded to urgently release Kitovani after Babilashvili's statement.

Shevardnadze Notes State Law and Order Progress

LD0702181395 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1440 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 7 Feb—At the parliament session today Eduard Shevardnadze made a report on overcoming the crisis and the implementation of reforms in the country. The report contained the following information.

"The Defense Ministry did not participate in disarming Tengiz Kitovani's armed formations. This task was chiefly carried out, without spilling a single drop of blood, by the State Security Service, the Interior Ministry, the interior troops police, the Prosecutor's Office, and other law enforcement bodies and special purpose groups. In case of interference by foreign forces, the country's armed forces had been put on alert to act within the boundaries of the Constitution and establish complete order."

"I would like to add," Shevardnadze stated, "that it is a significant event for the reinforcement of law and order in the country. It is also a step to ending the rampage of the mafia and corrupted clans that Kitovani's next adventure, which could have had led to a destructive aftermath for a new independent country, has been eradicated.

"These events showed us that the coordination tactics of power structures has risen considerably. Second, it demonstrated that the democratic state has finally been formed and that its armed forces and the law enforcement bodies, acting jointly, can protect democracy, freedom, the legitimate authorities, and the constitutional structure from any kind of armed bandits, plunderers, separatists, and adventurists, be it local or foreign forces.

"The time has gone when the local and foreign bands were rampaging in Georgia and nobody was punished. The time for law and order has come."

Estonia

Foreign Minister on NATO Membership Resolution

LD0702210995 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Estonia's chances of joining NATO: On 30 January the U.S. Congress's House of Representatives adopted a resolution to drop the Baltic states from the list of candidates aspiring toward NATO membership. Peeter Kaldre asked Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik for his view on the resolution.

[Begin Luik recording] [Passage omitted] One has to consider that, on the one hand, these resolutions to be considered by the Senate do not have any legal force and are only advisory in character. Let us say that their institutional force upon the U.S. Administration is small. On the other hand, we are naturally interested in our wishes being reflected as adequately as possible in such a resolution, once it has been decided to adopt it. [passage omitted]

[Kaldre] But it is quite strange that the Republicans now constitute the majority in the Congress, and we have always said that the Republicans would be better for the Baltic states. So how is one to account for such a decision or explain it? Is it pressure from Russia?

[Luik] No, I would not think so. We can talk about any document once it is finally adopted. This present resolution is not of the type to block the way for the Baltic states. It simply fails to mention the Baltic states separately, by name, but there is a reference to the fact that in the future other countries will be admitted. Naturally, Estonian foreign policy always aims for the Baltic states not to be set apart from other central European countries, the Visegrad countries, and I hope that we will achieve the final adoption of the declaration in that spirit.

[Kaldre] Well, the Congress' Foreign Affairs Committee notes that the Baltic states are not yet ready to join as things stand, and that the Visegrad countries are said to be ready. What then constitutes the difference?

[Luik] I do not believe that one could differentiate here, and the Foreign Affairs Committee does not say so directly. It was some U.S. politicians who noted this by way of commment on this resolution, so to speak. I think that if one looks at it purely from the weapons or military viewpoint, one could say that we are all in a similar and difficult position as far as the building of our armies is concerned. Finally, it is clear that membership of NATO is largely a political decision and not something based on who knows what kind of objective criteria.

[Kaldre] Mr. Luik, would you care to comment on claims of some of our Estonian parties about the Foreign Affairs Committee resolution showing up what NATO is worth in actual terms, and there being no need for us to try to get in at all, and that the Partnership for Peace plan is sufficient for us?

[Luik] Well, I think that even in the heat of the electoral campaign the parties should consider the fact that all the progress we are witnessing is taking place within months, and some decisions even within days. And all this amounts to a process. Should we find ourselves in a panic due to some specific proposal or draft resolution we will demonstrate that we do not understand the political situation in the world. As far as this view is concerned that we have no need of NATO, I have never been in favor of such isolationist policy. It is clear that NATO does not want any countries as members that would bring some kind of problems into the organization. It is our business to demonstrate that we are a stable democratic state, aiming for a market economy, and whose people and politicians wish to join NATO, and I am confident that sooner or later this will also come about. [end recording]

Tarand: Deporting Kurds to Finland 'Singular Event'

WS0802103095 Tallinn ETA in English 1927 GMT 7 Feb 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] That deportation of the interned Kurdish refugees to Finland will be a singular event, which will not be repeated, Estonian Prime Minister Andres Tarand told a press conference on Tuesday [7 February].

"I do not think that the fact that the interned Kurds are to be sent to Finland will immediately increase the refugee influx to Estonia," Tarand said. He added that the nearly a year-long stay in Estonia's Soviet-style prisons acted as an obstacle for the possible refugees aiming through Estonia to the Nordic states. Tarand said that the fact that the interned Kurds are to be sent to Finland is due to the pressure of the Finnish and Swedish human rights groups to Estonian and Finnish Governments.

As Estonia does not yet have internment camps, the 89 allegedly Kurdish persons who have arrived in Estonia illegally, are kept in Estonian prisons which are a relic from the Soviet times. Estonian and Finnish interior ministers agreed at the end of January to deport the Kurdish refugees to Finland. Estonia and other Baltic states have become transit countries for Turkish nations in their way through Russia to the Scandinavian welfare society.

Tarand said that those persons have no status of a refugee in Estonia and our taxpayers lack will in the present hard economic situation to support persons who have arrived in Estonia illegally. Estonia is greatly afraid of a possible illegal influx from Eurasia, a fear shared in fact by other countries, Tarand added.

Difficulties Face Travelers Without Citizenship Papers

LD0802120895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 8 February, in the "Business

Hour" program, carries comment by Vasiliy Ostapchuk, an adviser at the Russian Federation embassy in Tallinn, on the status of some individuals who enter Russia from Estonia without current citizenship documents. He says:

"As far as the Russian side is concerned, the border guards service (?has been instructed) to let them through freely but there have been cases when the Estonian side, and some Estonian border guards, have made complaints to those who have not declared their citizenship. We have received several telephone calls to this effect and people have turned up after having been turned away at the Estonian-Russian border."

Next, Viktor Hansen, deputy head of the Border Guard Department's operational section, who is asked to react to this statement, says that Estonian border guards have not detained such individuals at the border. However, the population was warned some time ago that some kind of changes on the Russian side were likely. Hansen goes on to say that from 5 February the Russian side was no longer allowing entry into Russia by persons carrying only ex-USSR passports. However, no restrictions were imposed on individuals returning to Estonia with such passports.

Minister on Merits, Demerits of Israeli Weapons

WS0702142695 Tallinn BNS in English 1017 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Feb 07, BNS—Defense Minister Enn Tupp spoke before the parliament on Monday [6 February] of the Estonian Armed Forces' experience so far in using the weapons bought from Israel.

Grenade launcher B-300 "works excellently. Is considerably more effective than the Russian-made RPG. Can be used also for training," Tupp said. The only fault with the grenade launchers is that they are designed for use in temperatures between -10 and +40 C. In temperatures below -10 corrections must be made in aiming," the minister added. [quotation mark as received] Estonia bought 6,000 grenade launchers.

106 mm anti-tank guns "made under an American license, a well-tested weapon. One can say it's okay. Although the design is a bit old, the weapon is absolutely usable," Tupp said.

81 mm mortars "made under Finnish license. Also has passed its battle tests. Works in any temperature. No problems." Estonia bought 40 mortars.

5.56 mm Galil combat rifles "at least 2,000 rifles, which have been in use, are checked by now. Compares to Kalashnikov in terms of combat and technical characteristics, but is very demanding as to service. There has been a number of defects, which have been eliminated, and there are no particular problems," Tupp said. Estonia bought 11,000 Galil rifles.

7.62 mm Galil sniper rifles "fifty rifles checked during the year. No defects, works in any temperature." Estonia bought 150.

Infantry bodygear "There are faults. Plastic clasps and belt buckles crack in winter conditions. The manufacturer has promised to eliminate defects."

Ammunition "no problems."

Radio equipment "no problems as to temperature. But there have been other defects that have been repaired in the course of operation."

Estonia signed an arms purchase deal with the state-owned TAAS Israel Industries Ltd. on Jan. 7, 1993. The agreement worth a total 49.03 million U.S. dollars was ratified by the Estonian parliament on Dec. 15, 1993. Estonia has to pay for the weapons in two tranches by Feb. 1, 2000.

Latvia

NATO Membership Plan Not Coordinated With Neighbors

WS0802090595 Riga DIENA in Latvian 26 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Janis Kulmanis: "Latvia Did Not Discuss NATO With Estonia and Lithuania"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 25 Jan—Latvia has not coordinated its project on joining NATO in "zigzag" style with the two other Baltic states, representatives of Lithuanian and Estonian governments announced recently. At the same time, their statements have described the project as "useless."

As DIENA has already reported, the Latvian minister of foreign affairs, who was aware of the fact that a document containing the U.S. opinion on NATO expansion was currently being prepared in the United States, submitted to the U.S. Government his own proposal to extend the organization—to admit one Baltic and one Visegrad Group member state at a time.

As DIENA has already written, Lithuanian Defense Minister Lins Linkevics has announced that the model for NATO extension proposed by Latvia was not discussed with the Lithuanian Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs. Besides, the artificial union of the two groups of countries seems unrealistic to him.

Plus, Estonian Foreign Minister Jiri Luik evaluated the Latvian project as "impractical." According to Luik, the proposal of the Latvian foreign affairs minister can be regarded positively as an exchange of intellectual opinions, which, however, has no practical value. The Estonian foreign affairs minister expressed the view that the main point of any of the NATO expansion plans should be to include all countries of Central Europe and not leave any of them outside the NATO security arrangement. To expand NATO by enrolling a single country at a time would be dangerous. The expansion of NATO should be conducted in a way which prevents the creation of a "gray zone" in Europe, said Luik. He also said that during his visit to France, he heard the opinion of a

French politician who stated that Estonia should pay greater attention to integration with the Western European Union, which could solve the state security problems of Estonia in a more flexible manner than NATO.

Rihard Mucins, press secretary of the Latvian Foreign Affairs Ministry, told DIENA that submitting the proposal was not the main target of the visit to the United States. We did not expect the idea to be accepted, only discussed, said Mucins.

French Delegation Discusses Military Development

LD0802093995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To get acquainted with the prospects of Latvia's military development, a group of experts in strategic matters from the French Ministry of Defense is visiting our country. The process of drafting a Latvian defense concept, the development of the national armed forces, cooperation between the Baltic states, and the possibility of integration into Europe will be discussed during meetings with the leadership of the Latvian military departments. Relations with Russia are also planned to be discussed.

Prime Minister Discusses Transformation Progress

AU0702205695 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 6 Feb 95 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Maris Gailis by Jan Rybar in Riga; date not given: "The Way Back Simply No Longer Exists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maris Gailis obtained the post of prime minister in the "second round." Last July, following the fall of Valdis Birkavs, President Guntis Ulmanis first asked Andris Krastins to form the government. His cabinet did not, however, evoke the parliament's confidence. Subsequently, the president asked the strongest parliamentary party, the Latvian Way, to form the government. Gailis has been in office since 15 September 1994.

[Rybar] How strong is Russia's influence on Latvia's development?

[Gailis] Russia has no direct influence. Understandably, however, it has a great indirect influence on many processes that take place in our country. One of our main objectives following the revival of our independence was to bring about the withdrawal of the Russian Army from our territory. Finally we succeeded, albeit at the cost of numerous concessions.

Several thousand military pensioners, demobilized officers, and other soldiers have remained in Latvia. Some of them stayed illegally. That also is a problem that must be solved.

Before the war, people from Russia and other Slavic countries used to come to Latvia. The structure of the population that existed before the war has been completely destroyed. Only approximately 54 percent of the country's population are Latvians now, while before the war, it was 70 percent. That certainly had a great impact on Latvia's life.

Everything that I mentioned, as well as numerous economic issues, is more or less connected with Russia.

At the same time, however, it must be emphasized that we are absolutely independent in the implementation of our ideas. At one time, Russia wanted us to join the Commonwealth of Independent States. We are, however, unequivocally oriented towards integration into the European Union and NATO. I am convinced that a way back simply no longer exists.

[Rybar] Is it Russia's intention to regain control over Latvia and its neighboring Baltic countries?

[Gailis] I do not believe this to be a realistic proposition for Russia at this time. They have plenty of their own problems. Of course, it will take the first suitable opportunity to try it again. That is why we are hurrying the integration into Europe.

[Rybar] Could the phenomenon of a Russian-speaking population lead to Latvia's political destabilization in the future?

[Gailis] I do not believe so. There have always been various peoples living in Latvia. Only the proportions were different. At present, we are working hard on an integration program for the 800,000 people who live here but do not have Latvian citizenship. The problem of Russian-speaking inhabitants without citizenship has unfortunately become the platform for the radical nationalist- oriented parties, which would like the non-Latvians to leave. That is not a realistic proposition. Many of these people are third generation. At the same time, however, it is true that only a small part of them assimilated and learned to speak Latvian.

Our government's policy is based on the assumption that the key element for maintaining good prospects for the development of our society is social peace. We had encountered great political problems when adopting the law on citizenship, but we finally succeeded. The conditions were defined and the process of voluntary integration of non-Latvians into the Latvian environment continues.

[Rybar] How do you feel about the level of cooperation with Lithuania and Estonia?

[Gailis] All of us managed to regain our independence. It is being said all the time that we are rivals and competitors in many areas. Nevertheless, we have formed numerous common structures. We have the Baltic Council, where deputies of all three parliaments meet, the Council of Prime Ministers, and joint commissions for various issues.

[Rybar] Are you satisfied with the pace of economic reform? Many people feel it is too slow.

[Gailis] Of course, it could be much faster. In many areas, the reform does not progress as we would like it. Nevertheless, the banking sector, for instance, is developing well, and the fully convertible currency has been stable for almost two years. Latvia has all the prerequisites for a normal and favorable development oriented towards the market economy. Following a period of sharp decline, we have begun an upswing. I am convinced there is virtually nothing that could cause some fundamental political or economic shakeup.

People's Front Advises Rejecting Yeltsin Invitation

LD0802115395 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The executive of the Latvian People's Front [LTF] has decided to support the Union of National Forces' intention to send a letter to Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis advising him to reject Russian President Boris Yeltsin's invitation to take part in the victory day celebrations in Moscow. The LTF's executive justifies its stance by the fact that after the Soviet victory over fascist Germany, Latvia was occupied and a large part of its citizens became victims of repression.

During his visit to Balvi at the end of January, President Ulmanis among other things stressed that 9 May would be marked in Latvia as a day of remembrance and mourning for victims of the Second World War, but not as a victory day.

Lithuania

Belarusian Delegation Discusses Cooperation Projects

LD0702164995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian state delegation which is currently on a visit in Vilnius, headed by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, held talks today with a Lithuanian delegation headed by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, the government's press spokesman told ELTA.

It was noted during the talks that the existing practice of exempting carriers of the two countries from transit taxation will be continued. Both delegations agreed to work to make both Lithuania and Belarus attractive as transit states.

Lithuania suggested establishing closer cooperation in the sphere of civilian flight control.

Views were expressed about the safety of the Ignalina nuclear powerplant and how safety can be insured internationally and jointly with Sweden and other countries as well as international organizations. This nuclear power plant was built taking into consideration Belarus's need for power. Belarus is interested in purchasing the electricity generated in Lithuania, because it is cheaper than the price quoted by competitors in other countries. The customs services of the two countries are also preparing for concrete cooperation.

During the talks views were exchanged on the acquisition of topographic material which is currently held in Minsk. The Belarusian side suggested that Lithuania should buy it and therefore it is only a question of the price, which is to be negotiated. The Belarusian side said that no obstacles to the acquisition of this material will be raised.

Belarusian President Addresses Seimas

LD0702204795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Address by Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to Lithuanian Seimas in Vilnius on 7 February; Lukashenka speaking in Belarusian and Russian, with superimposed Lithuanian translation throughout—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. President, esteemed Chairman and deputies of the Seimas, esteemed ladies and gentlemen: Allow me to express my great respect and gratitude for the opportunity to address such an eminent assembly as the first president of the sovereign Republic of Belarus.

I see this speech as an act of great respect to my republic, personally to me as president, and to the relations existing between our peoples.

The Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Belarus are going through a uniquely significant time. Our states have chosen the path of sovereignty. But each of them has chosen its own special direction for further development. We are profoundly convinced that our peoples will travel this path in concert, because this period now dictates a qualitatively set of new mutual relations between us, based both on the rich traditions of the past and on the use of contemporary experience. We must place at the basis of these the principle of respect for everything that happens on the path to establishing statehood. In our view, this allows us still further to strengthen good neighborly relations.

Proof of this is the path of consultations and negotiations conducted by us on a range of complex issues of establishing the state borders, and in particular yesterday's signing of the treaty on good neighborliness and cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania. This is yet another confirmation of the fact that our peoples are striving to establish civilized good neighborly relations and to lay firm foundations for long-term political and economic cooperation.

I am sincerely grateful to you, Mr. President, for the efforts that you personally have made for us so that in the shortest period we can settle the existing complex issues and start a new dialogue between two equal partners.

I want to dwell especially on the signing of the treaty on the state border and to note its importance for our countries. Some humorously inclined journalists have already managed to christen this act as the fourth partition of the Great Lithuanian Duchy. It is no secret that there are a few opponents in our states who have tried to create their political image at a time when the process of working out the concept of settling controversial issues between our states was in progress. Therefore I say to everyone: our line is unchanging—we have respected and will continue to respect Lithuania as an independent state. We have respected and will continue to respect the borders between our countries and we view their establishment as an inalienable attribute of sovereignty, as an act that can only bring our peoples closer and not push them apart. It will provide the opportunity to build our relations in a civilized way in the future.

I want once more to repeat the words that I sincerely respect, words spoken by the president of the Republic of Lithuania in Minsk last July: the border must not separate, but unite us. Our peoples have many foundations for this.

We cannot remain hostages of the former communist system. Our common goal to is to take up the past rich experience, the tried and tested traditional contacts in the area of the economy and culture. Today we are aspiring not only to lay a firm foundation for all-round reliable cooperation between our states, but also to renew the broken links between specific industries and branches of the national economy of our countries and to remove the obstacles to commercial and economic exchange. Only in this way will we be able to reanimate industry, give a new stimulus to economic relations, and open our markets to each other.

The Belarusian consumer has fond memories of Lithuanian electronics. He specially liked the Silelis television set and agricultural goods. Our industrialists are suffering from the fact that they cannot supply their output—spare parts, agricultural machinery and other goods—fully to the Lithuanian market. On this level we have lost a lot over the past few years. So we want to propose specific dialogue on the level of further economic cooperation, but already in conditions of the choice of paths of transfer to market relations.

Here the main thing should be coordination and implementation of mutually advantageous programs and projects and the rational utilization of the advantageous geographical position of our countries, which opens up great prospects for entering both east and western markets. Today we have an equal interest in the potential of both states. For Belarus this means using the potential of the port in Klaipeda, participation in plans to create the east-west transport corridor, and construction of an oil terminal in Butinge.

We are extremely interested in Lithuania's program of creating free economic zones; Belarus would also like to take part in these. We are extremely interested in working out conditions of transit through the territory of Belarus, our agricultural machinery etc. In this way we have a lot of questions and problems for dialogue and cooperation. Therefore, it is a pity that we have lost a lot of ground in trade. Over the past few years there has been a sharp reduction in trade turnover in agriculture and other traditionally inter-linked industries.

So far there is an absence of direct investments between us in the development of the economy of our countries, which certainly cannot satisfy us. We see that on the level of economic cooperation our countries must form a new partnership and as soon as possible conclude fundamental economic agreements at an intergovernmental level. The first steps have already been made in this direction. An inter-governmental agreement has been signed and will soon come into force on trade and economic cooperation that establishes most favored nation status in trade. Work is being completed on an agreement on reciprocal protection of investments and avoidance of dual taxation; plans are to sign that later this month.

With the aim of invigorating business cooperation and trade, it has been decided to create a joint standing commission between our countries. It is known that we do not have enough investments and new technology to organize our industry in the proper manner. But we do have the main thing—great personnel potential, ability and talent of people, and their great task to be reborn. This provides the confidence that our peoples will be able to justify their choice. Confidence is also provided by the fact that our states have chosen the path of democracy, which already, at the price of the particular nature of their system, is a sufficient guarantee for the foundation that allows the intended reforms to be carried out.

For Belarus, democracy is absolutely not just a declaration and statement by politicians. The adoption of the first constitution of a sovereign state allows us to say that we have laid as a reliable legal foundation the outlined guarantees that will help the republic to develop within general European processes and use the experience of European democracy.

We link the essential completion of the formation of democratic institutions of power in the republic with the election of a new composition of the Supreme Soviet. In connection with this, we hope that the new composition of the supreme legislative body of Belarus will promote the adoption of market-oriented legislation necessary for the further development of economic transformations.

But beyond the economic and political problems we must not forget the spiritual side of our cultures. The Belarusian and Lithuanian peoples have many problems, especially today, but we must remember that they had a common cradle of statehood and culture, that over the centuries they lived as one mighty state creation. This was their fatherland on whose altar they laid their efforts, fates and, when required, their lives. Our peoples grew up in a common culture. They gave the world the great names of Yanka Kupala, Liudas Gira, Eduardas Miezelaitis, Alais Pashkevich, Stepas Kairys, and many others. We must remember this, those people whose work and talent have always called the people to reason and wisdom, great patience and work in the name of the future.

We must also remember the fate of our fellow-countrymen, of those who by the will of fate today find themselves in various countries, people who are expecting prosperity and are working for that. The Republic of Belarus has always respected the Polish population living in our republic and has always considered them to be our own citizens with full rights. We also are sincerely grateful to the Lithuanian state for its understanding for our fellow-countrymen and attitude of respect to them. I hope that our relations will continue to be built on the principles of good neighborliness, mutual respect, and cooperation and support for the good norms of international law.

Esteemed Mr. President, esteemed assembly!: Allow me once again to express the profound respect for your country, our good neighbor, and to wish peace, prosperity, and well-being for your its people.

Esteemed friends!: allow me literally two words outside the text of our official report here to speak in Russian which, let's be honest, to some extent brings closer and unites many peoples, not only of the former Soviet Union. Literally two words. You know, esteemed comrades, the views, attitudes, and friends of Lithuania and the Republic of Belarus may be different. But we have never fought, never in history, and we shall never fight. Allow me in the name of the Belarusian people to assure you of this. Yesterday I said that all peoples are destined to something. All peoples are destined to something. Happily we are destined to live in friendship and neighborliness. This is our great achievement. Yesterday your president and I signed a number of agreements. If someone sees this as being damaging to the interests of Lithuania, we are ready immediately, even tomorrow to go back with those people, to negotiations, and to those documents that were signed. There are no undercurrents, the Republic of Belarus has no ulterior motives in relation to our fraternal, friendly, neighborly nation. Do not go looking for any undercurrents.

Everything is clean and open. To put it simply, two months ago your president asked me to speed up the process that had lasted two or even three years. It was more a question of political games, especially on our side, than of business-like, specific cooperation. He asked me to act in two areas—on a large-scale treaty—and we signed it, you will note, before we did with other republics of the former Soviet Union.

Second, he asked me to speed up the implementation of the accord and conclusion of a treaty on the border. In a period of two months we solved the most complex question. Yesterday I said that these accords should be an example for working out such treaties not only between the republics of the former Union, but also between states. If it is done like that, then we shall be able to reach agreement on other issues still more quickly and implement them more effectively. There need be no speculation concerning our interests in Lithuania.

Yes, our motives are not altruistic, and neither are yours. The basis of our relations are, first and foremost, self-]interest. I tell you here in the supreme legislative body, we indeed have an interest in the very closest, warmest, and friendliest relations not only in politics, but also in the economy.

I shall tell you more: Your president and government have gone much further in practice in elaborating those processes that have only just started to develop in our republic as a result of the change of power in our republic, and the fact that talks were held with the prime minister, and yesterday with the president on that issue—you have considerably pushed us ahead in working out accords and their subsequent implementation. We are a transit republic but we can get considerably more out of it than we are getting. Fate has turned out that your interest is very closely dependent on the Republic of Belarus—the transport that we can use to visit you should pass through us. This pushes us, our government and me as president—I am speaking openly here—to the speediest implementation and conclusion of agreements between us.

I have quoted just one example where you showed us the way how we should work. I have made this small conclusion in connection with the fact that yesterday in the most attentive manner I watched your TV and the coverage of my visit to the Republic of Belarus [as heard] he probably means Republic of Lithuania] at the invitation of your president. I react very badly at home to the way our mass media cover this or that event, and in this connection I want to stress to you once again that we have no ulterior motives—only friendly, warm, fraternal relations with your state. They are not linked with the relationship of our republic with other states, other republics, primarily with Russia.

I will go even further: We recently spoke informally with the head of the Russian foreign ministry about the processes going on in the Commonwealth of Independent States. I constantly inform your president openly and sincerely about what is happening at the talks of CIS heads of state. The next meeting is literally the day after tomorrow in Almaty. I constantly told him, maybe things he doesn't need to know at times, so that he can be abreast of things going on the CIS territory. That is because we are brothers, because we are neighbors.

I don't know, perhaps there are some people in Lithuania who find these tendencies unacceptable. As president, I understand our relations only in this way. We have already parted sufficiently, we are already far away enough from each other. Enough. Let's focus on the economy. Let's not build any confederations, let's not build any unions. Let's tackle common human economic problems, and they will definitely lead us to other problems that we do not see today or do not accept. Such is the policy in relation to Lithuania on the part of the Belarusian Government and its first president—and I assure you that it will be unchanging not only under the leadership of my republic, on my part. Such a policy will always be, because such is the mentality of Belarusian people.

Thank you very much once again for listening to me and interrupting your sitting. Thank you, and through you, the entire Lithuanian people. I wish you happiness, prosperity, and peace. Thank you. [subdued applause]

Radical Rightist Leader Nominated Seimas Candidate

WS0802111495 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Feb 07, BNS—The Lithuanian Social Democratic Party [LDSP] has decided to nominate Antanas Terleckas, the controversial leader of the radical rightist Lithuanian Freedom League [LFL], for a by-election in the Kasiadorys district.

The election, which will be yet another attempt to fill a parliamentary seat left vacant by Algirdas Brazauskas' election as president, is to be held March 25, along with Lithuanian local elections.

The LFL, founded in 1987, was the first organization to stage independence rallies in Lithuania even before a popular independence movement began.

Parliament Vice Chairman Aloyzas Sakalas, who is also the LSDP chairman, told reporters Tuesday that the Kasiadorys by-election cannot change the distribution of forces in parliament, therefore he says the Social Democrats decided not to nominate their own candidate with less than 1.5 years remaining till the end of the parliament's term.

Terleckas, a former political prisoner, cannot be nominated by the LFL because it still fails to be registered as a political party, while election guidelines bar social organizations from nominating candidates to parliament.

The Social Democrats nominated Terleckas "as a personality whose activities prove that he is fit for work in parliament," Sakalas said.

Terleckas told reporters that the Justice Ministry's refusal to register the LFL as a political party is groundless. He denied allegations that the league has representatives of other parties among its members.

The LFL leader said he suggests to make a distinction not between rightist and leftist political forces, but between "honest and dishonest" ones. Terleckas noted that there are dishonest people among the Social Democrats, as well, but "more honest ones than in parties which will not support" his candidacy.

Terleckas is the fifth candidate nominated for the by-election. Candidates were earlier nominated by the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, the Conservative Party, the Independence Party and the Center Union, but only the latter two forces have already submitted the necessary documents to the Chief Election Commission.

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